

صلى الله عليه وسلم

THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

# THE INDEPENDENT

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(1R50p) 45p

## THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO THE MAN WHO MADE THE SIMPSONS

REVIEW FRONT

PLUS: DAVID AARONOVITCH ON SUPER-SLOBBIA, THE MYTH. REVIEW PAGE 3

## WHY AMERICAN SCHOOLS ARE NOT FOR MY CHILDREN

EDUCATION

Why American schools are not for my children

# Where are the missing 30,000? The world wants to know

THE WORLD was looking for 30,000 missing refugees from Kosovo yesterday, after the Macedonian authorities evacuated at least 50,000 of them from the makeshift camp at Blace on its northern border.

While some of the refugees in Macedonia were taken to transit camps set up around the capital, Skopje, and about 14,000 were reported to have been bused to the town of Korce, in Albania, the whereabouts of tens of thousands of them is still uncertain. "We cannot account for about 30,000 people," said Paula Ghebini, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Nato and aid agencies said they feared for the safety of tens of thousands of other refugees from Kosovo, who were waiting on Yugoslavia's frontier with Albania, who were herded back into Kosovo by Serb troops early yesterday morning.

The lightning speed of the Macedonian operation, which took place between 8pm on Tuesday night and 2am yesterday morning, local time, took everyone by surprise. A British military vehicle is understood to have trailed the convoy of 119 buses as it headed through the mountains of western Macedonia to the Albanian border crossing at Pogradec.

The UNHCR said the Macedonian authorities refused to say where the people had been taken. "We still don't know how many went where," said a UNHCR spokeswoman. "Some complained they had no idea where they were going and they were being separated from their families."

Last night the refugees who had been taken to Albania were reported to have been deposited in Korce's sports stadium.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE in Skopje and EMMA DALY in Morini

um. There were unconfirmed reports of others heading for Greece and Turkey.

Armed Macedonian police and soldiers rounded up the refugees at Blace and led them on to buses. "It was very quick," said Sheri Fink, a medic with the aid group Physicians for Human Rights, who saw the evacuation. "None of the people knew where they were going. There was no one from the international community to see what was happening."

Nicola Boyle, a medical co-ordinator with the Interna-

my daughters have gone too and so has my 13-year-old grandson. He is blind and deaf. What has happened to him I dare not think."

There were strong suspicions that the Macedonians had coordinated their move with neighbouring Yugoslavia. Belgrade closed the frontiers with Macedonia and Albania just as the Blace camp was being emptied and forced thousands of refugees waiting at the Yugoslav-Albanian border crossing at Morini back into Kosovo. Like their fellow Slavs in Serbia, the Macedonians have no love for their Albanian minority and they have no wish to see it numerically boosted by an influx from Kosovo.

At Morini yesterday a sinister silence enveloped the border post. The only things left moving were plastic water bottles and other debris blowing about in the wind. Avni Ibrahim, who crossed just before the border closed, lost track of his relatives when they were sent back into Kosovo by Yugoslav border guards. "The Serb soldiers sent back all the people," he said. "They just forced the people to turn around."

A total mystery surrounds the fate of the thousands of Kosovar Albanians who had lined up along the road from the western city of Prizren to Morini. On Tuesday, the queue of at least 20,000 people had stretched some 18 miles back into Kosovo.

One group of 25 people who succeeded in crossing at 5am, long after the border appeared to have closed, said the route they travelled on was deserted. "They did not see any people," said a UNHCR spokesman. Jacques Franquin. "They saw a lot of cars and tractors but in



The camp at Blace, on the Macedonia-Kosovo border, before (right) and (above) after the refugees were evacuated

John Voss

terms of people, nobody." Nato and aid agencies said they feared for the refugees' safety. "Apparently the Serbs want to keep them - to do what?" asked Mr Franquin.

"The Serbs have more or less destroyed all their villages, and I don't think they are planning to build a Inter-Continental Hotels to house them."



# Canada prepares ground troops

THE FIRST indications that Nato might be planning to put ground forces into Kosovo came last night as the alliance confronted the massive outflow of refugees.

The Canadian government said it was considering the possibility that ground forces might go into Yugoslavia even without a peace agreement. It was the first time a Nato government has publicly acknowledged it might be necessary for troops to fight their way in to return and resettle refugees.

"The plan has been ... to bring the Yugoslav government to the table, to have a peace

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

plan and, on that basis, for ground troops to then go in to ensure the security of the people of Kosovo," said Art Eggleton, the Defence Minister.

"Now, if that's not going to be possible, and I think as we see with each day the Milosevic government is not indicating they're favourable to doing that, then certainly Nato has to look at other options," he added. "And the military planners and the Canadian military are in the course of looking at other options as to where

ground troops might be involved."

Earlier the United States intervened in an effort to free three US soldiers, captured on the border between Albania and Kosovo last week. The initiative, by Spyros Kyprianou, the acting President of Cyprus, sparked concerns in Washington that it would be outflanked diplomatically as it seeks to press on with the air war against Yugoslavia.

Mr Kyprianou said Slobodan Milosevic "has conveyed to me his willingness to discuss the issue of releasing the three American captives and to hand

them over to us". He left Larnaca airport for Athens and then Belgrade yesterday. Greece was expected to provide an aircraft to fly him to the Yugoslav capital, but Mr Kyprianou was asked by the US to delay his departure.

The mission presented Nato with a difficult decision about whether to carry on bombing even as Mr Kyprianou was on his way to Belgrade. He requested a 24-hour ceasefire. The US warned him not to travel last night, and said it wanted to talk to him before he left. The allies were also scrambling to ensure that the meet-

ing did not turn into an occasion for Mr Milosevic to negotiate over the conflict.

Cyprus has sided with Belgrade in its war with Nato and Mr Kyprianou said he hoped his visit could help to broker an end to the conflict. "I believe, I hope, my mission will succeed. If it does I think it will help improve the climate, it will satisfy the American people ... and will be proof of the Yugoslavian President's commitment to peaceful processes," he said.

Cyprus and Yugoslavia were both founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Mr Kyprianou had close ties to

Belgrade when he was President from 1978 to 1988.

Mr Kyprianou said there might be preconditions for the release of the soldiers, however, which could be a stumbling block for any deal. In particular, Nato ruled out any attempt to free the men by trading them for an end to the bombing of Yugoslavia. "As for paying a price, of course not, the mission goes on," said Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman.

The US was very cautious, saying there had been "some contact" with Mr Kyprianou but playing down hopes of a rapid breakthrough.

## KOSOVO EMERGENCY HELP SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES

Forced to flee their homes, the refugee children of Kosovo are cold, exhausted and terrified. Disease is spreading fast. Will you help the innocent children caught up in this conflict?

UNICEF is delivering emergency aid and vital medical supplies to the families that are fleeing Kosovo in search of safety. But we must do more - and fast.

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### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia	A\$6.50	Israel	NT\$12.00
Austria	£2.00	Italy	£1.00
Belgium	Fr 160	Latvia	£1.00
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Denmark	DkK 112	Norway	Nkr 26.00
Finland	Fm 18.00	Portugal	Esc 200
France	Fr 160	Singapore	S\$2.00
Germany	DM 1.00	Spain	Ptas 275
Greece	Dr 400	Sweden	Skr 25.00
Hungary	Hfor 250	Switzerland	Sfr 2.50
Ireland	Ir£ 1.00	Turkey	Liras 1,250.00
Japan	Yen 500	USA	\$1.50

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## WAR IN THE BALKANS

"It takes two to tango. We don't recognise any sort of ceasefire"

David Wilby  
Nato spokesman

"No one there. Just huge piles of garbage"

Pawel Koczyński on  
the refugee camp in  
Macedonia

"He must withdraw his forces, let the refugees return. Nothing less will bring peace with security"

President Bill Clinton

"If he is not stopped, he will not be the last dictator to use this sort of force"

George Robertson  
Defence Secretary

"We can't stop now and let Milosevic pocket the ethnic cleansing he's carried out"

Robin Cook  
Foreign Secretary

"Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda – the world says 'never again' – still, genocide recurs"

Kofi Annan

# Europe offers states bribe to take refugees

## THE CONTINUING EXODUS

By KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels

WEST EUROPEAN governments were warned to move urgently to ease the pressure on Macedonia yesterday amid signs that Skopje, determined to close its own doors to the tide of refugees, secretly hushed thousands of Kosovars and dumped them on the Albanian border on Tuesday night.

Moving to pre-empt an unseemly row over who will bear the biggest share of Kosovo refugees, the European Commission in Brussels called on member states to first dip into an emergency reserve of £200m to "buy off" Yugoslavia's neighbouring states.

Roughly half of the emergency money would be earmarked to help to alleviate the pressure on Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro, which are all believed to be in danger of political destabilisation.

In what smacked of a bribe to get Macedonia, in particular, to keep its doors open, the com-

mission dangled the prospect of an immediate cash package for Macedonia and a long-term free trade and political co-operation deal going beyond anything previously available. Hans Van den Broek, the EU commissioner for foreign relations, even spoke of offering the Skopje authorities an association agreement, often the first step to EU membership.

The unspoken idea is to avoid EU splits over refugees coming to western Europe by keeping the frontiers open. "I would hesitate to use the word 'reward'," Mr Van den Broek said. "We need to do this so we can ask them to co-operate fully in helping the refugees."

It was important to allow as many Kosovars as possible to remain in the region to "avoid giving the wrong signal both to Milosevic and to the Kosovars".

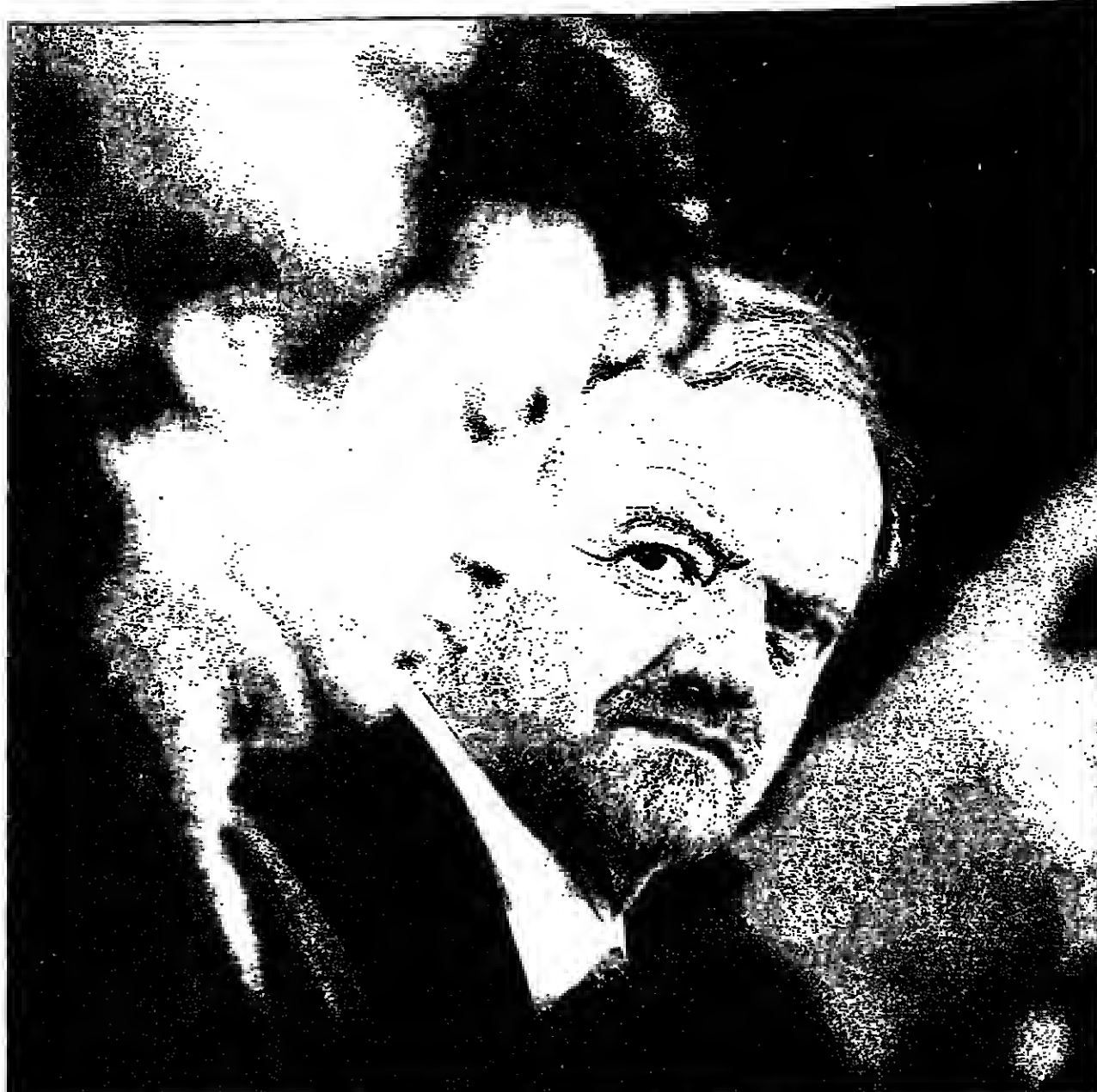
Emma Bonino, the European commissioner for over-

seas aid, said that it was "regrettable" the Macedonians had apparently moved up to 10,000 Kosovars to the Albanian border without informing agencies. She was also harsh in her criticism of the frantic efforts to bundle people on to planes for destinations as "bizarre" as Cuba and Guam: "These people are not parcels."

Ms Bonino said the priority had to be to help Kosovars to remain in the region. Airlifts should be used only as a last resort and if the people volunteer.

She stressed the need to alleviate the pressure on the frontiers states. Any effort to create an internationally overseen humanitarian haven within Kosovo for the ethnic Albanians would require the presence of ground troops.

EU interior ministers were last night urged by the commission to be prepared to open their doors to the most needy of the Kosovars.



Robin Cook meeting exiled Kosovo Albanians at the Foreign Office yesterday. The delegation included a number of journalists and Mr Cook announced the setting up of a UK-funded Kosovo information network. *Neville Elder*

## Blair sets out Nato's terms

### WAR AIMS

By ANDREW GIBBS

TONY BLAIR warned last night there would be "no compromise" with Slobodan Milosevic and that Nato would continue to bomb Yugoslavia until he conceded all of its demands.

"This policy of ethnic cleansing must be seen to be defeated so that this type of appalling situation is not allowed to happen again," Mr Blair said.

"There must be no question of half measures... Milosevic must withdraw his forces from Kosovo, he must cease the policy of ethnic cleansing and he must allow an international force in to allow people to return to their homes and villages. That must be the only set of terms on which Nato must settle this matter."

Mr Blair predicted that President Milosevic would now try to divide the Nato alliance, but insisted there were "no splits". Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced that Britain is to fund a new information network run by former journalists forced to flee from Kosovo. He said it would be based in a neighbouring country and give Kosovo Albanians a means of communication which President Milosevic could not block.

## Targets get legal check

### CODES OF WAR

By KIM SENGUPTA in Bonn

EVERY NATO air strike against Slobodan Milosevic's regime has to be cleared by Government law officers to ensure it does not break international codes of war.

The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, said yesterday that while the Serbs gave war on the population of Kosovo, all the operations carried out by British and other allied forces must be scrupulously checked to ensure they comply with international law. During a visit to Germany, Mr Robertson said that he, the Attorney General, John Morris, and the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, "pore over" the targets before any authorisation is given.

"While Milosevic is tipping human beings over the border like garbage, we are trying to do our utmost to make sure we never sink to anywhere near their level," he said. "I am the chairman of the Defence Coun-

cil. I have a legal responsibility for ensuring that the forces that are put into action behave legally. If they don't act legally, it's me that's liable as well as them."

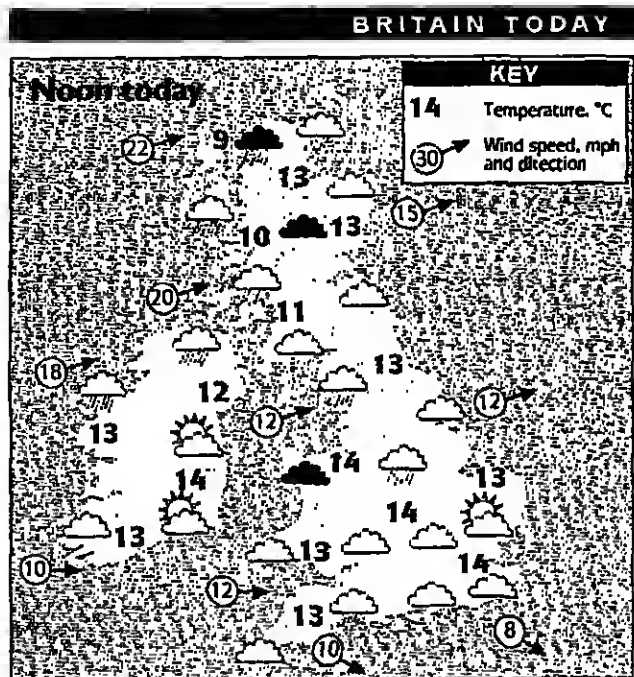
After a meeting with the German Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping, the two ministers gave another example of how Serb forces are breaking international law, by dragging refugees back into Kosovo to act as human shields.

The ministers maintained that this attempt to "very partially" stem the flow of the displaced was because "the (Milosevic) knows that our air strikes are working and this is his cowardly and brutal response".

Mr Scharping also said that Nato now has information that Milosevic planned as early as October last year to carry out his mass cleansing of Kosovo's Muslim population. He hoped to present evidence of this today.

### CONFLICT BRIEFING: DAY 15

- Nato aircraft flew 439 sorties in the latest round of attacks and struck at 28 fixed targets.
- Over the first 15 days of the campaign, 190 attacks have been conducted, over 80 of which were in the past four days.
- On Tuesday, RAF Tornados attacked a military complex, flying from Germany, achieving direct hits against all targets.
- The British Army is operating 19 mobile kitchens in Macedonia, producing 10,000 portions every 12 hours.
- The UN's World Food Programme appealed to donor nations for a further £15.1m, bringing the total cost of its aid operations in the region to £29m.
- The European Commission proposed yesterday that the 15-nation European Union make available up to 250m euros (£145.3m) in aid to help ease the refugee crisis.
- Nato flew 35 aid flights to Macedonia and Albania, with 180 tons of tents, a 100-bed hospital and 300,000 food rations.



**FORECAST**  
General situation: East and south-east England will start dry but it will become cloudy with a threat of rain this afternoon. Wales and western England will be overcast with light rain. The Midlands and north-east England will turn cloudy with rain. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be breezy with cloud and outbreaks of rain, although Northern Ireland should become drier this afternoon.

London, E & SE England, E Anglia: Early mist will clear to leave sunshine before cloud builds bringing rain this afternoon. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

West & SW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Wight: Overcast with outbreaks of mainly light rain, turning misty on coasts and hills. A light west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

East & NE England: Staring dry with some early sunny spells but soon clouding over with light rain spreading from the west. A light westerly wind. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F).

NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Breezy and cloudy with rain, most of it light. A freshening south-westerly wind. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

Wales & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Overcast with rain. Windy with mist on coasts and hills. A fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

N Ireland: Overcast and breezy with rain but becoming drier this afternoon. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F).

**OUTLOOK**  
The south will be dry and warm tomorrow but western parts of England and Wales will be cloudy. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain. Rain will spread southwards, leaving Scotland and Northern Ireland with sunshine and showers.

**TRAVEL**  
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bypass: M10 118-119. Major Roadworks on A1000. Until 23rd June 2001. Warrington: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J10 Queensford. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 23rd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J24 Tinsley Viaduct (A6102) & J24 Tinsley Viaduct (A6107). Sheffield. Contraflow is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd, Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks. Laydowns. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Co-Antrim: A1 Kingsway. Dunsilly. Roadworks. Various lane restrictions. Until 1st August. Derbyshire: A61 Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shadow Road roundabout. East of Alveston. Contraflow for work on new A50. Until 15th October. AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 461777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

### LIGHTING UP

Belfast	8.13pm	to	6.37am
Birmingham	7.53pm	to	6.24am
Bristol	7.54pm	to	6.29am
Glasgow	8.08pm	to	6.28am
London	7.45pm	to	6.19am
Manchester	7.56pm	to	6.25am
Newcastle	7.56pm	to	6.19am

### HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM	MT
Abermouth	12.00	10.3	12.18
Cork	10.55	3.7	11.31
Devonport	10.51	4.5	11.14
Dover	3.48	5.6	4.17
Dun Laoghaire	5.05	3.4	4.57
Falmouth	10.23	4.3	10.45
Glasgow	5.32	2.8	5.45
Harwich	4.48	3.3	5.06
Holyhead	3.26	4.6	3.55
Hull (Albert Dock)	11.23	7.3	11.57
Kings Lynn	11.23	5.2	11.58
Leith	8.05	4.5	8.38
Liverpool	4.10	7.8	4.34
Millwall (Heron)	11.10	5.4	11.45
Newquay	11.15	5.5	10.43
Portsmouth	11.33	3.1	11.40
Portsmouth	11.15	3.9	4.50
Plymouth	3.26	1.7	3.55
Scarborough	9.29	4.6	10.03
Wick	4.27	2.8	5.06

### AIR QUALITY

	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>
London	Moderate	Good	Good
S England	Moderate	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Moderate	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

### SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	06:22
Sun sets:	19:45
Moon rises:	02:10
Moon sets:	10:51
Last Quarter:	April 9th

### WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



### YESTERDAY

#### EXTREMES

Warmest: Leuchars, Fife 14C (57F)  
Coldest: (day) Shetland Isles 10C (50F)  
Wettest: Loch Glacmorach 8.0 mm  
Sunniest: Exeter, Devon 4.5 hrs  
For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday

	Sun	Rain	Max
	hrs	mm	°C / °F
Aberdeen	2.8	0.5	18 / 64
Anglesey	0	0	17 / 63
Ayr	0	0	17 / 63
Belfast	2.5	0.3	13 / 55
Birmingham	0	0	14 / 57
Bournemouth	1.2	0.5	15 / 59
Bristol	0	0	12 / 54
Brixton	0.6	1.5	12 / 54
Cardiff	3.4	3.8	16 / 61
Cardigan	0	0	13 / 55
Carmarthen	0.4	0	17 / 63
Cirencester	0.5	0	15 / 59
Edinburgh	3.5	1.0	15 / 59
Exeter	0.5	1.0	15 / 59
Falmouth	1.1	1.8	13 / 55
Falkenstein	0.6	1.5	13 / 55
Glasgow	0.8	3.0	13 / 55
Gillingham	0.4	0.3	13 / 55
Hove	0	2.0	11 / 52
Isle of Man	0	2.8	10 / 50
Jersey	5.5	0.5	17 / 63
Norwich	0.4	0.3	13 / 55
Norwich	1.1	0.3	16 / 61
Lewes	2.8	0.5	12 / 54
Littlehampton	0	2.0	15 / 59
London	0	0	16 / 61
Lowestoft	0.3	3.6	17 / 63
Manchester	0.4	0.5	15 / 59
Margate	0.2	0.8	17 / 63
Marazion	0	2.5	12 / 54
Newcastle	2.2	0	15 / 59
Newquay	4.4	0.5	15 / 59
Northampton	1.2	0.3	17 / 63
Orford	1.2	0.5	17 / 63
Ross-on-Wye	1.3	0.3	16 / 61
Salisbury	0	0	15 / 59
Scarborough	0.6	0.5	15 / 59
Southend	0	0	14 / 57
Southport	0	2.0	15 / 59
Stamford	1.6	7.4	12 / 54
Swanage	0	1.5	11 / 52
Tenby	0	1.8	11 / 52
Torquay	0	2.5	14 / 57
Wexham	0	0	15 / 59
Weymouth	0	0.5	11 / 52

### RAIN OR SHINE...

HUNDREDS of people in Cameroon have been told to leave their homes after Mount Cameroon erupted, spewing out a mile-wide river of molten lava towards their village.

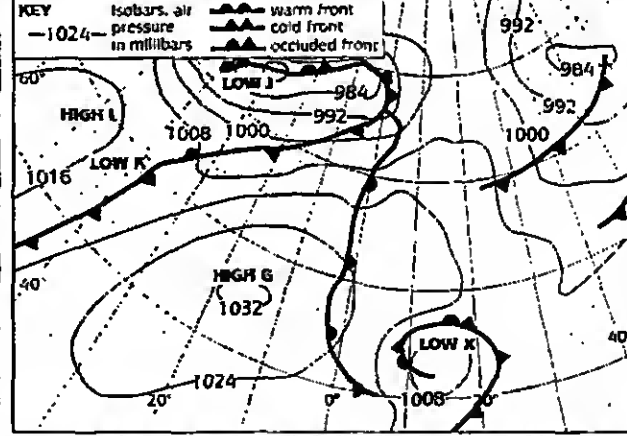
The flow of molten rock 100 feet thick from the volcano, known as Chariot of the Gods, got one-and-a-half miles from the coastal village of Bakilele yesterday prompting the government to order an evacuation. Officials say the viscous rock will reach Bakilele within four days.

### THE WORLD

#### EUROPE NOON TODAY



#### THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



#### THE WORLD YESTERDAY

	°C	°F		°C	°F
Adelaide	17.63	63.73	London	12.54	54.57
Algiers	23.73	74.71	Lyons	12.73	54.91
Athens	25.71	78.28	Madrid	24.75	76.55
Auckland	17.63	63.73	Moscow	12.54	54.57
Bahia	25.71	78.28	Munich	12.73	54.91
Bangkok	25.71	78.28	Nairobi	12.54	54.57
Bombay	25.71	78.28	Paris	12.54	54.57
Buenos Aires	25.71	78.28	Rome	12.54	54.57
Calcutta	25.71	78.28	San Francisco	12.54	54.57
Cardiff	12.54	54.57	Seattle	12.54	54.57
Cardigan	12.54	54.57	Shanghai	12.54	54.57
Carmarthen	12.54	54.57	Singapore	12.54	54.57
Cirencester	12.54	54.57	Sydney	12.54	54.57
Cirencester	12.54	54.57	Taipei	12.54	54.57
Cirencester	12.54	54.57	Tokyo	12.54	54.57
Cirencester	12.54	54.57	Winnipeg	12.54	54.57
Cirencester	12.54	54.57	Zurich	12.54	54.57

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## WAR IN THE BALKANS

# US backing for ground troops rises

## AMERICAN OPINION

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

IN FOLLOWING the new White House policy of almost daily appearances by the President to defend the Nato operation in Kosovo, Bill Clinton used the start of an address on China yesterday to repeat what has become the official mantra on Kosovo: no concessions; not now and not later.

Amid speculation about a US request to Russia to mediate and the imminent release of the captured US servicemen, Mr Clinton said: "We are determined to stay united and to persist until we prevail."

The truce proposed by the Yugoslav President was unacceptable: "It is not enough for Mr Milosevic to say his forces will cease fire in a Kosovo dened its freedom and devoid of its people... He must withdraw his forces, let the refugees return, permit the deployment of an international security force."

As members of his immediate team are criticised for their handling of the crisis - not a day goes by without some disclosure about errors by the departments of state or defence, or the military - Mr Clinton

ploughs on and his efforts seem to be paying off. His ratings for handling the operation have improved and opinion has hardened substantially against Mr Milosevic, for the military action and for deployment of ground troops.

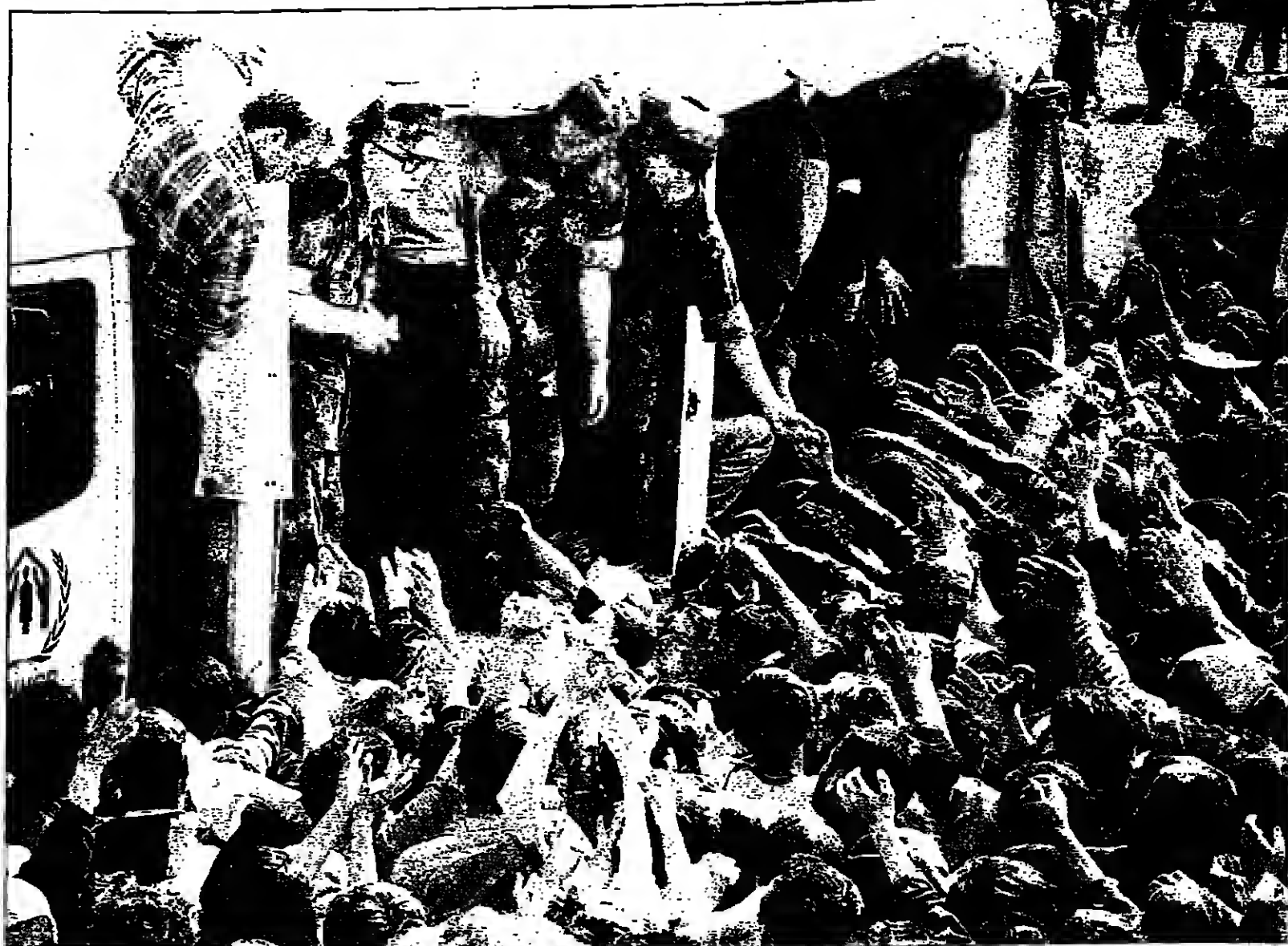
A Wall Street Journal poll showed 64 per cent approving "US and Nato air strikes". Asked if they would "favour or oppose sending US and Nato soldiers into Serbia if the Serbs continue to drive people out of Kosovo", 53 per cent said they would approve. When the question was put more starkly - would they approve sending US and Nato soldiers into Serbia if that was "the only way to stop the fighting" - the proportion rises to 73 per cent in favour. This is an almost 30 per cent increase in Americans who would support deployment of US ground troops since air strikes began. It brings the US much more into line with European - at least North European - opinion.

A similar shift has been seen among opinion-formers - policy advisers, academics, military

experts and politicians. Determination to "finish the job", if necessary with ground troops, has escalated from hesitant acceptance that this might be the only option into a crescendo of support. The upshot is that Mr Clinton, who yesterday continued to insist through cabinet members that there were no plans to use ground troops, could find himself contemplating a policy U-turn by popular - and congressional - acclaim.

If this happens, he will have to thank the disarray on the right. Aside from a small group of conservatives, led by Pat Buchanan, who have said from the outset that no US interests are at stake in Kosovo, the majority have twisted and turned through a series of misjudgements to the point where they are lined up, more or less, behind the toughest possible line on Slobodan Milosevic.

Accustomed to European enthusiasm for military action lagging behind that of the US, their first misall was to misread European opinion and the appeal for Europe of a "values-led" war. "With leftist govern-



US Marines handing out food yesterday in a Nato-run refugee camp in Stenkovce, on the outskirts of Skopje, Macedonia

AP

ments recently elected in several European countries," one said this week, "I thought they would be just learning to march, but I'd no idea we would be marching so soon."

And from another conservative: "It's surprising how solidly the Europeans have been in favour of this operation."

With the majority of Europeans and the White House in sync, the non-isolationist right splintered between those who harboured suspicions of any military action supported by Bill Clinton, the Vietnam War protester, and those who thought this Vietnam protester too soft on Mr Milosevic.

Then came the pictures of the refugees, and Senator Don Nickles, a senior Republican who had reportedly said he would not support military action until "the Serbs started massacring people", was embarrassed into saying he was quoted out of context. It is said he would now vote for ground

troops and take the vast majority of Republicans into the lobby behind him.

Even a recent call by William Odom, former head of the National Security Agency and respected military strategist, to "Take Belgrade" does not faze them. "The only problem is that to save Kosovo we are po-

sitioned to the south, whereas you would have to take Belgrade from the north," was the one misgiving voiced by a group of right-wing defence experts this week.

Much may have gone wrong in the Nato operation for Kosovo but for Mr Clinton almost everything has gone right.

# Cuban prison camp has McDonald's and golf course

## THE REFUGE

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

INTENSIVE PREPARATIONS were being made yesterday for the arrival of up to 20,000 Kosovars at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay on the southern corner of the island of Cuba. Tent cities were being set up, sanitation arranged and food ordered.

If large numbers of displaced and destitute Kosovars found the prospect of an airlift unappealing, even to nearby Turkey, their feelings on being

told that they were to be transported to a US military base halfway across the world can only be imagined. Even some Americans were expressing misgivings on their behalf.

Political misgivings - that the further the refugees were from home, the less likely they were to return, and the more likely the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, would succeed with his "ethnic cleansing" - were only the half of it. And

while a small number of Americans said openly that the United States was playing host to enough immigrants already without giving even temporary refuge to Kosovars, the more vocal majority objected to the very idea of Guantanamo Bay.

Displaced people were being moved to a completely different time and climate zone, into a base at the edge of an island associated with one of the last Communist regimes - of the

sort they have just fled. The territory has been in US hands for the best part of the century: it was ceded to the US on an unlimited lease in 1903 after the Spanish-American war and the US pays about \$4,000 (\$2,500 in rent to Cuba each year).

Only 45sq miles in area, it is surrounded by high metal

fences festooned in barbed wire, and resembles - in the words of one critic - a "low-security prison". It does have a McDonald's, a 9-hole golf course, a school, shops and medical facilities. But it is still a confined and fortified place.

The last time it provided refuge was four years ago,

when it housed up to 50,000 Haitians and Cubans. Most of the Haitians have returned home; the Cubans have mainly been resettled in the US. But the facilities have been either dismantled or fallen into disrepair - hence this week's frantic activity.

The accommodation will consist partly of pre-fab barracks, but mainly of tents. Sanitation will be primitive. There will be no work, no fraternisa-

tion outside the base (that is, after all, Cuba). If Haitians and Cubans became bored and disorderly as the months passed, Kosovars used to living in Europe - albeit in one of its poorest areas - are likely to be even less content. The head of the group co-ordinating the effort, Bruce Atwood of the US Agency for International Development, says that he expects the arrangement to be temporary, but such arrange-

ments have a habit of lasting.

For Cubans confined at Guantanamo, there was an incentive to stick it out - as the first rite of initiation into their future in the US. The prime concern of most Kosovars, however, is to return home. After initial relief at the safety and order likely to prevail at Guantanamo, they could find themselves "thawing" under the regulation and discipline America requires of its charges.

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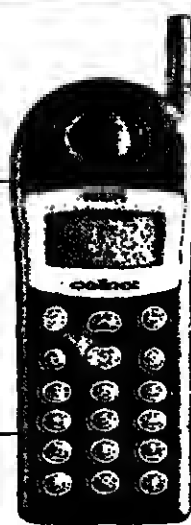
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سكزا من الامير



# Proud? No, but there's still defiance in the air

NIGHTS FALL early in Belgrade and I am used to my little room with its worn red carpet and ghoulish oil painting of a full-bodied Serb mother, her arm round a child whose ear is weirdly poking from the top of his head.

Now the government has ordered restaurants to close by 7pm, I squirrel myself away by the old wooden shutters and read Anna Karenina for the second time, or watch Belgrade television's interminable 15-year-old serial about Vuk Karadzic, the Serb epic poet and language reformer, and the First Serbian Revolt. In last night's episode, two of Vuk's friends had their heads chopped off by the Turks, while a priest called Hadzuvrin was slowly garroted under the approving eye of the local vizier. He took a minute to suffocate. After half an hour you can see why Serb viewers might come to hate Muslims. Tolstoy has nothing on this.

So some evenings, I just wander the Kneza Mihailova, the pedestrian precinct where the young - before the next night of bombing - make their *idu ruku pod ruku*, their arm-in-arm walks past the 19th-century buildings, sandblasted into beauty 15 years ago when Belgrade thought it might become a tourist resort. There are plenty of pseudo-19th-century street lamps, though it's doubtful - as the *Rough Guide* to Yugoslavia points out - if the capital of Serbia ever truly looked like this.

It's an odd sensation walking down this street, being British and speaking English in a city under nightly bombardment by Britain and America. So I don't speak. I avoid Serbs who might ask me for a light or wish to express their views on the vandalised British Council of offices halfway down the street. Instead, I wonder what they would think - especially the black-dressed skinheads with their tiger badges, who worship Vojislav Seselj and his chums -



ROBERT FISK  
IN BELGRADE

If they knew that the man in the tatty brown coat had a passport, which proclaims that "Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests and requires in the Name of Her Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance".

When the air raid sirens whine, I don't think the "let or hindrance" bit counts for very much. So I prowl the bookshops. There's plenty of Ivo Andric, and several books by Vlada Uroševic, the Skopje writer, and I spot a Serb translation of my old friend Anna Karenina in a window full of coffee-table volumes on Serb monasteries. Each of the latter has stuck to its cover the symbol of the black-and-white target that is now worn by half the Serbs of Belgrade. Nato is trying to bomb every human being in the city, if you believe these badges. It is trying to bomb every monastery. It hopes to destroy every bookshop in Kneza Mihailova, if you accept the message of the target banners taped to the sides of buildings.

Some of the shopfronts have already been destroyed, though not by Nato. The American Cultural Centre has been smashed up. On the wall of the French embassy, someone has written "Les Couchons" - which doesn't say much for the influence of the French Cultural Centre, also vandalised, down the road. In the Air France office, someone has painted "Non Pussicron" behind the ticket desk. Belgrade is

now civil war Madrid. And the Serbs are all victims. Who will Nato bomb tonight?

In the abandoned restaurant of my hotel, a table stands on the spot where a German bomb fell in 1941. "We didn't defuse it - we left it buried here and wrote the date on a stone above it," the waiter eagerly tells me. How typical of the Serbs, I say to myself. They don't destroy bombs; they cover them up. Outside, a Yugoslav soldier passes me, a bandage round his head, tiredness in his eyes, bunched under a kithab.

I have found a pretty little chemist's shop in the Kneza Mihailova, and spotted a shirt I might buy later this week if I can persuade my translator to do the talking. And having managed to avoid reading it so far, I'm tempted to buy the English edition of David Owen's Bosnian memoirs, which I have spotted in the window of another bookshop. But what happens when the shop assistant asks my nationality? Or when the other shoppers take notice?

I am being too hard. Most Serbs are kind to the *novinar*, the foreign journalist, though they are convinced that editors change our reports or threaten to fire us if we don't condemn Serbia. There's a military press centre where polite colonels bid good morning to the citizens of Nato nations. I even have accreditation as a correspondent from *Veitika Britanija*, with "War Press Card" printed beside my name. In the foreign ministry, in restaurants, in interviews around Belgrade, I am treated not as an enemy but as a guest who has been misled by Nato propaganda. And the thought crosses my mind - how would a Serb journalist be received in London if the Yugoslav air force had just fired missiles at the Home Office?

Of course, we are not slaughtering the people of Kosovo - even if our behaviour in 18th-century Ireland had a lot in common with the MUP's activities in Serbia's southern



A man searching the rubble of a house after a Nato missile hit the centre of Pristina yesterday

Goran Tomasevic/Reuters

province - and we don't have the reputation that the Serbs acquired in Bosnia. When she heard the name "Srebrenica", my translator had no idea what it was; or where it was. She was not being dishonest. Yes, there are those who know what is happening in Kosovo. "It is true, and I am truly sorry for this," a Serb friend said to me when I asked him about the "ethnic cleansing" of the Albanians. But he lowered his voice when he said that. Some people know. Some people don't want to know. Others cannot believe the truth. Others have never heard it.

I cross the road at the end of the Kneza Mihailova into Kalemegdan Park. Two old men are playing chess with massive wooden chess-pieces, watched by friends. Children are chasing each other in a dirty plastic "jungle" playground near an empty fountain. A couple - she high cheekboned, he a little haughty (I cannot help but think of Anna Karenina and

Vronsky) - walk past the statue erected in honour of the French Army in the 1914-18 war. "Shame" is written over a frieze depicting frozen-faced poets, stone bayonets fixed back in the age of Verdun.

Of course, this is not the First World War. Nor the Second. The Luftwaffe spent hours flattening square miles of Belgrade and killing more than a thousand souls. Nato comes just before dawn, for just a few seconds, computerised and alien, gobbling up a barracks or an empty ministry or a bridge, even before the sirens pick up the incoming missiles. On the news the other evening, they showed a clip of videotape that caught the very split-second

when a Yugoslav anti-aircraft shell hit a Tomahawk over the suburbs of Belgrade, blasting it to pieces in the night sky; and you could see how proud the Serbs felt.

They don't look proud on the Kneza Mihailova. But there is a kind of defiance in the way the couples walk through the park, the determination of the old men playing chess. At one end, the smell of freshly cut grass drifts around the old Austrian fort, but I can smell smoke too, the same oily breeze that has drifted over Belgrade since Nato bombed the thermal heating plant across the River Sava. Two tall men in white socks are walking back down the *Ulica* - perhaps because of

the socks, I suspect they are plain-clothes cops - and I avoid the crowd reading the long political tract on the pavement, another condemnation of "Nato-pact aggression".

Yes, for the people here, that is what the war is; unprovoked, bestial, vicious. If Albanians are fleeing Kosovo - and how many of those coffee-table books show Serb Kosovo monasteries on their covers? - they are not doing so because they are the victims of Serb atrocities, but because Nato is bombing them too.

Not once - ever - does it occur to anyone that the Serbs might be driving the Albanians out of Kosovo. The Serbs are victims. Victims of Hitler. Vic-

tims of the brutal Turks who sliced and garroted their way through 18th-century Serbia. Victims of Nato. Does a society like this have to be reconstructed? Or does that democratic seed planted in the great demonstrations two years ago live on beneath the ice?

I smell the grass again and look in the grey evening light across the Sava and the mirror of the Danube to the start of the great Vojvodina plain. What was it they used to sing two years ago, the tune they still hum sometimes in the Kneza Mihailova, and which I think of more and more as I wander about this dingy, stubborn, grimy city? "It is spring - but alas, I live in Serbia."

## Tornado pilots keep cool as Serb action hots up

### AIR OFFENSIVE

By KIM SENGUPTA in Bruggen

"IT'S MESMERISING, a spectacular firework display like a Fourth of July or Fifth of November celebration. You can see them coming up and they burst all around you, underneath you, behind you. There is intensity and colour; it's quite a show, but it does concentrate your mind."

These were the impressions which will remain for ever with an RAF pilot who faced anti-aircraft fire while leading a Tornado raid on Serbian positions. The Tornado GR1s based at RAF Bruggen in Germany had taken part in some of the most dangerous missions in the Kosovo conflict. On Tuesday night they struck at the Yugoslav army headquarters in Kosovo, hitting barracks, fuel dumps and, it is believed, tanks and armoured cars. In Nato's declared aim of the use of air power to halt Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing, this was one of the most important engagements in the war so far.

Among the airmen at Bruggen there is no triumphalism. The mood is one of

reflection: they are bombing a European capital in a European war, just as some of their fathers might have done in their time.

So far, all the aircraft have returned home safely. But the servicemen here know this is going to be a long haul, and that the Serbs have been working with the Iraqi high command on how to counter allied attacks. And as the missions involve low flying, planes could be shot down, as in the Gulf War.

"Yes, I was surprised that we are taking part in this action so long after the fall of the Berlin Wall," said the pilot, who served in the Gulf.

"We are surprised, just like the public. But in the military we learn to expect the unexpected. This is different from the Gulf. In the Gulf, after serving two months you got one welcome back home. To fly from the home base, to have emotional reunions night after night, is quite a challenge."

Looking out of the window at a Tornado being prepared for another flight, the officer continued: "There are two aspects

of fear when you take part in a mission. There's the fear of danger, which manifests itself in the run-up and the planning before you go. There is a gradual escalation, but once you are in the area of operation that vanishes totally. There is a job to be done, others are relying on you, you don't have the time for fear. What you have then is a fear of failure."

The pilot, who did not want to be identified, said: "Of course we have all been affected by pictures of the refugees. We have all got children and we have been touched. And, frankly, it strengthened our resolve."

While the servicemen and women are busy with the unfolding action it is a time of apprehension for their partners. Rosemary Blogg, who has two sons, Alex, nine, and Douglas, six, is married to a flight lieutenant.

She said: "The atmosphere here will make people get closer. I live next door to someone whose husband is flying at the moment, and it's difficult to sleep. We feel anxious until we

hear the door go at night and we know he's safe."

The German air force has also been flying missions. Many are against anti-aircraft artillery and missile launchers.

In Bonn the German defence staff officer, Commander Axel Stephenson, said it was a natural progression for the Luftwaffe to take part in hostilities. "We have been based in Piacenza (northern Italy) in a support capacity and it is a logical step to use our weaponry. We shall just have to be professional about this."

The Luftwaffe has taken part in 64 missions over Kosovo and Serbia, sometimes in support of other allied aircraft. The pilots mainly used their Harm (High Speed Anti Radiation Missiles) and have notched up one of the best strike rates. The Germans have also been flying in almost half of the supplies for the refugees. In one 24-hour period this week, 13 Luftwaffe relief planes flew to Skopje, the Macedonian capital, compared with eight from France, three from the UK and one from the US.

### TIMETABLE: DAY 15

**Wednesday 7 April**  
12.05am Yugoslavia closes the border point of Jazince and apparently starts sending back into Kosovo thousands of refugees.  
1am Nato strikes a fuel storage facility near Pristina airport. Garages and a warehouse at an oil refinery in Novi Sad are destroyed.  
2am US calls for Belgrade to

"release" Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.  
6am Macedonia has emptied border camps of Kosovo refugees overnight.  
10am Yugoslav minister Milan Bozic says Nato air strikes have driven 50,000 from Kosovo into Serbia.  
11.50am UN secretary-general Kofi Annan hopes Yugoslavia's ceasefire in

Kosovo is first step to peace.  
1.10pm Over 100 fighter planes take off from Italy.  
1.30pm UN war crimes prosecutors call on Britain, the US and Nato to provide evidence of alleged war crimes in Kosovo.  
1.45pm KLA reports the discovery in Cetin, central Kosovo, of 51 bodies of ethnic Albanians.

3pm UN refugee agency says 35,000 Kosovo refugees who disappeared from Black border between Yugoslavia and Macedonia are still unaccounted for.  
5.45pm Albania allows Nato to operate in the country, paving the way for the US Apache attack helicopters and 6,000 troops.

# KOSOVO CRISIS

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# Recluse who terrorised high street

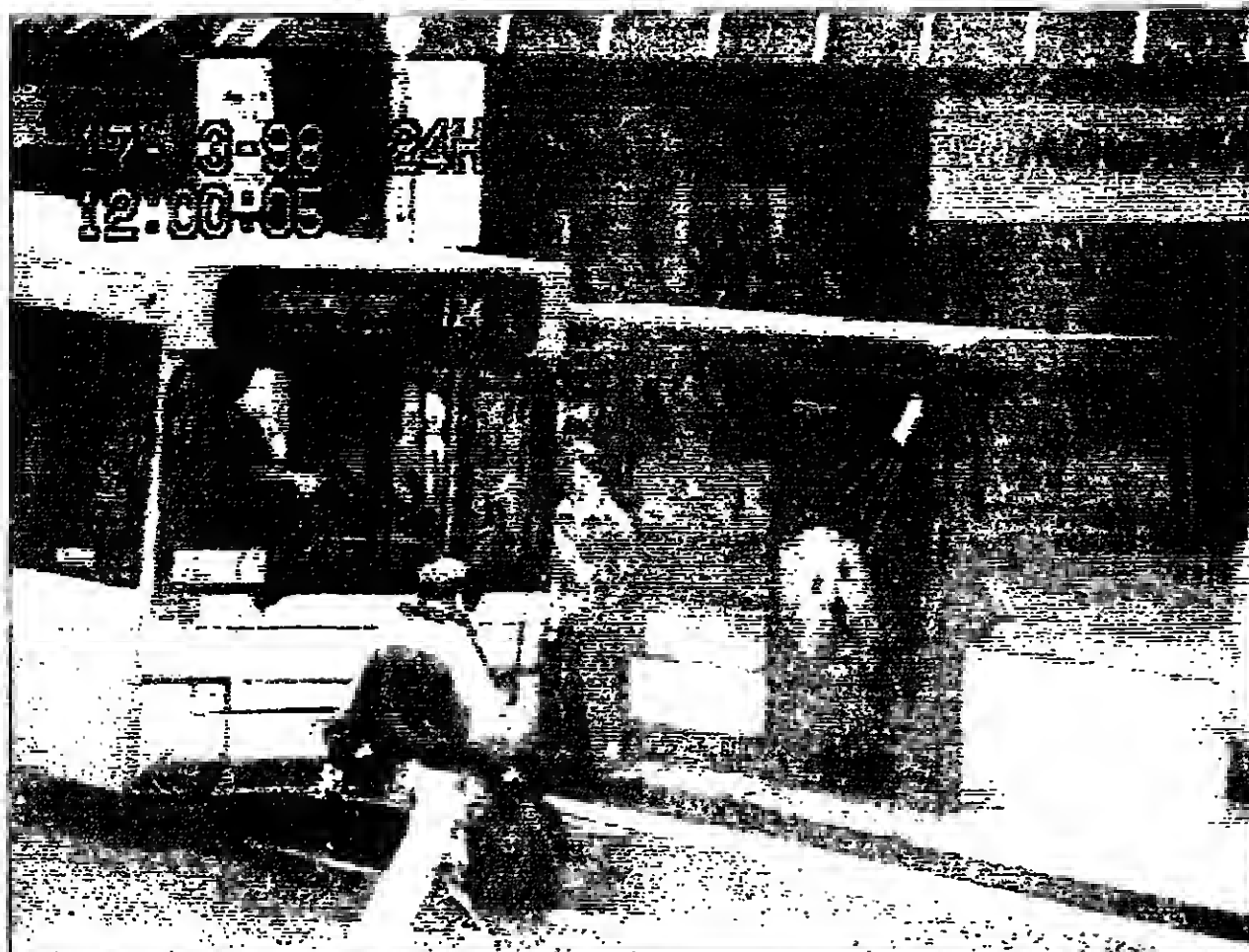
BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

A 61-YEAR-OLD unemployed man admitted in court yesterday that he was the elusive "Mardi Gra" bomber behind a three-year terror campaign aimed at extorting hundreds of thousands of pounds from high street banks and shops.

Edgar Pearce, a self-styled property developer from Chiswick, west London, pleaded guilty to 20 charges, including blackmail attempts on Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's supermarket. In all, he was responsible for an estimated 36 attacks involving home-made bombs against randomly selected individuals and firms.

He was finally captured by a combination of brain power and manpower. In one of the biggest surveillance operations ever mounted, up to 1,000 officers from Scotland Yard and the National Crime Squad kept watch for the blackmailer at hundreds of cash-point machines.

Pearce got the idea for his extortion plot from a daytime television programme about Rodney Wicheo, a former policeman who tried to extort £4m from Heinz. Wicheo was jailed for 17 years in 1990 for spiking jars of baby food on supermarket shelves with bleach and razor blades. Pearce copied one of Wicheo's ideas - demanding cash cards with special PIN numbers that would allow him to withdraw £10,000 a day for an unlimited period from automatic cash machines. He also obtained details from books and television pro-



A police video (left) of Edgar Pearce carrying a bag with a bomb; Joan Kane (centre), who unwittingly carried a bomb on two buses in west London after a shopping trip; a replica of a video case that fired a shotgun cartridge when opened; a sticker released by police (top right); a message to the bomber placed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad; and a Mardi Gra 'calling card'

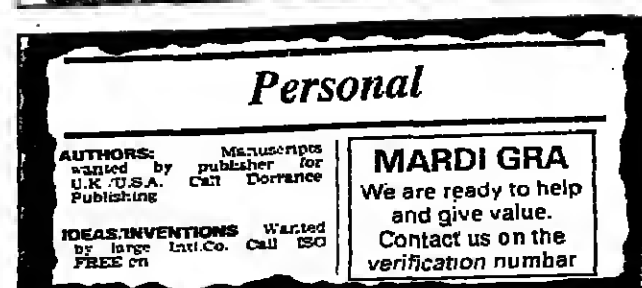
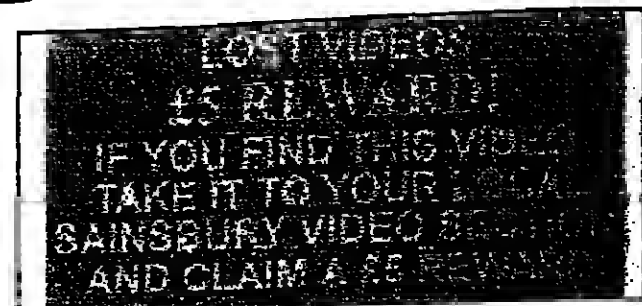
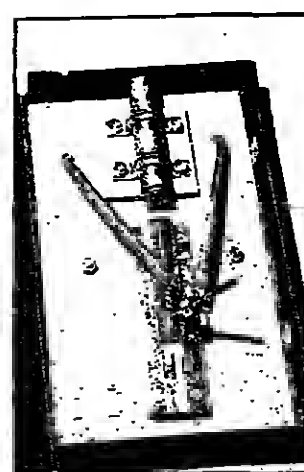
grammes on building explosive devices.

He first struck in December 1994, when packages wrapped neatly in Christmas paper were sent to six west London branches of Barclays Bank in

video boxes which bore a Reservoir Dogs-style picture and the words "Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience". Inside each was a simple trigger device which automatically detonated a shotgun cartridge as

the box was opened. The first two went off, causing slight burns to employees, but the others were defused. Barclays was targeted because several years earlier, Pearce and his wife had got into a dispute with the bank.

Over the next 14 months, the bomber struck another 19 times. Most devices were sent to addresses in London, directly to the bank, its officials or companies connected with them, or placed in telephone



boxes outside banks. The second phase involved targeting members of the public at random, selected from the phone directory, while a third phase involved random businesses. Targets included a camera shop in Kent, a farm and a tax inspector in Cambridgeshire.

Pearce drew on his background in advertising to produce a snappy "calling card". The name "Mardi Gra" was chosen because in French it means "Fat Tuesday": his first wave of blackmail demands had been sent out on a Tuesday.

Police were baffled about the motive until Barclays received a letter signed "Mardine Graham", demanding £10,000 a day for an unlimited period via cash cards. The bank was told to communicate through the small ads column in a national newspaper. An early plan to lure the bomber into a trap failed when Barclays said it was having trouble complying with his demands. Mardi Gra cut off communications and started a fresh wave of attacks using more sophisticated bombs.

Pearce next turned his attention to Sainsbury's, claiming he feared Barclays would start closing branches. The supermarket had just lost its position as the market leader and was therefore "vulnerable". He struck at three branches in November 1997. Curtis Dennis suffered the worse injury, in an attack near Sainsbury's store in Forest Hill, south London, in

March, 1998. His thigh was injured and he had to give up his sporting ambitions.

Detectives became increasingly frustrated with the lack of clues. The bomber went to extraordinary lengths to avoid detection: he used disguises and constantly varied his methods of attack.

There was a false alarm three weeks before he was caught, when armed police officers arrested a man spotted placing boxes around a Sainsbury's store in west London. He turned out to be a rat catcher.

Pearce's downfall came after he arranged for a series of cash cards designed to look like a promotional gimmick, to be given away with a magazine. Although anyone could buy the cards, only the police and the blackmailer knew their real purpose. More than £20,000 was paid into a secret account able to be accessed by the cards at several banks and building societies, with a daily withdrawal limit of £2,000.

Cash points in the west and south London areas were fitted with surveillance cameras. Teams of plain-clothes officers from the Metropolitan Police and the newly formed National Crime Squad kept a 24-hour watch from hidden posts.

The account was linked to a computer that sounded an alarm within seconds of Mardi Gra tapping in the PIN number. Pearce managed to pocket only £700 before he was

trapped. On the evening of 28 April last year, moments after he withdrew £250 at Whitton, near Twickenham in south-west London, he was arrested.

Police saw Pearce - wearing a wig and beard - get into a red Vauxhall Senator, which was promptly hemmed in by unmarked police cars. The £250 taken from the cash machine was seized. At 1 o'clock that night, armed police broke down the door of Pearce's home. They found two home-made pipe bombs, a pistol, 272 shotgun cartridges, springs, nails, and video boxes. Disguises were also discovered.

Pearce pleaded guilty yesterday to nine counts of blackmail, three offences involving explosives, one count of wounding, three assault and four firearms offences. He will be sentenced next week on a date to be decided.

His brother Ronald, 57, was arrested with him. But yesterday the charges against the older Pearce were dropped. He was, however, jailed for 12 months, the length of time he has been in custody, after he pleaded guilty to the illegal possession of a stun gun.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Rees, who led the hunt for Mardi Gra, said last night: "This was a callous, calculating individual who was wholly indifferent to the possibility the devices might cause death or serious injuries. It was a miracle no-one was killed."

## Mardi Gra bombings plotted in greenhouse

BY JASON BENNETTO

ELDERLY AND holding, Edgar Pearce seems an unlikely looking master criminal.

But in many ways Pearce, 61, fitted the stereotype of the deranged but intelligent recluse who spends years trying to beat the system and devise the perfect crime.

He was motivated by money, obsession, a desire for notoriety and the satisfaction of outwitting Scotland Yard's finest while terrorising large sections of London.

As always in these cases, the unmasking of Pearce as the man behind the Mardi Gra came as a shock to neighbours and relatives.

Pearce was described as an unfriendly, reclusive man who drank heavily and quarrelled about the parking space in front of his home. He was nasty to children, had bizarre eating habits, but was considered "intelligent and frustrated".

Unemployed, at one point he worked for his younger brother, Philip, who runs an advertising firm in south-east London, although the brothers have not seen each other for more than nine years. Later, he described himself as a property developer.

Pearce's three-bedroomed house in Chiswick, west London, is split into three bedsits. He lived in the downstairs front room and rented out the three upstairs bedrooms.

One lodger, Graham Hunt, described him as "well educated and very knowledgeable about world events and the news".

Mr Hunt said: "He drinks



Edgar Pearce: Reclusive

vegetables. It's like a normal person's Sunday lunch, but he has it for breakfast with a glass or two of red wine."

Much of Pearce's plotting took place in the greenhouse at the end of his garden where he would work until 1am.

Ten years ago, after 30 years of marriage, he separated from his wife, Maureen, 57, who lives in Welling, Kent.

His daughter, Nicola, 26, refused to believe her father was the Mardi Gra bomber. "My dad shops at Sainsbury's because he likes their food. He doesn't go there to bomb them," she said.

"He's a gentle man," she added. "He's not screwed up in the head at all."

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THE BEST ARTS  
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Duck shooting at marshes in Norfolk. Wildfowling will soon have to use non-toxic shot Mark Cator/Impact

## Lead shot to be banned in wildfowl grounds

LEAD SHOT is to be banned from the shotgun cartridges of Britain's wildfowling, the Government is to announce today.

When shooting ducks and geese over the seashore, estuaries, lakes and other wetlands, wildfowling will have to use shotgun pellets of a different, non-toxic material – or risk a fine of up to £5,000.

The ban is intended to end the lead poisoning of water birds, which ingest spent shot when taking in grit to aid digestion, and subsequently suffer a lingering and painful death. The action follows the successful ban on lead weights in angling in 1987, which has allowed mute swan populations to expand greatly.

The ban should be in place in England in time for the new

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

wildfowling season on 1 September. The timing of the ban in Scotland and Wales will depend on the new Scottish and Welsh assemblies. A similar ban is to be introduced in Northern Ireland.

Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, said the ban did not constitute a restriction on shooting as a sport, to which the Government remained opposed. "The aim is to prevent the gratuitously painful and unnecessary deaths of birds," he said.

A typical 12-bore shotgun cartridge contains about 250 pellets of lead, weighing about 35g. It is thought that about 2,000 tons of shot are



used by wildfowling in Europe each season, much of which falls directly into wetland habitats. As birds suffering from lead poisoning tend to seek cover and die isolated deaths, there are no figures for how many

British waterfowl are lost each year. It has been estimated that 2 to 3 per cent of the United States' autumn wildfowl population (1.6 to 2.4 million birds) dies each year from lead shot ingestion. According to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, levels of lead ingestion in northern Europe are similar.

The ban will affect the 16,000 members of wildfowling clubs and up to 100,000 other shooters who take ducks or geese occasionally. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the wildfowling's representative body, said yesterday that it accepted the ban, although it would entail more expense for wildfowling. With alternatives to lead shot cartridges costing up to four times as much.

## GPs cleared to give latest birth Pill

FAMILY DOCTORS are to be allowed to prescribe newer brands of the Pill after a policy U-turn by the Department of Health on advice that caused a scare over the contraceptives four years ago and sent abortion levels soaring.

In 1995, the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) sparked a health scare by advising GPs not to give out "third-generation" brands. But yesterday it effectively rescinded its own advice. The department said it wanted to reassure women that the Pill was safe, but family-planning groups said the move proved the scare was a "disaster that never should have happened".

Abortion levels soared after the CSM said research showed that newer brands of the Pill increased the risk of blood clots. The third-generation drugs, which were taken by 1.5 million women, contained gestodene or desogestrel and included such names as Femodene, Marvelon, Mercilon and Minulet. As women stopped taking the Pill, the number of abortions rose by 29,000, and has since failed to drop to pre-scare levels.

Dr Jeremy Metters, the government's deputy chief medical officer, declared yesterday that the increased danger of clotting was extremely small. The risk of contracting venous thromboembolic disease (VTE), which clots the blood in legs, stood at 25 cases per 100,000

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

women per year of use of third-generation contraceptives.

However, to offer clear advice to patients, all packets of these brands will now carry leaflets showing that the risk of clots is nearly twice as high as for older drugs.

Dr Metters also announced that he was sending new advice to all GPs to allow them to prescribe the newer drugs as a first choice, as long as they discuss the risks with the patient first. In 1995, the CSM recommended that GPs should not prescribe these Pills for women at risk of VTE and should use them only in those who were intolerant of older brands and were prepared to accept the risk.

"It is important to remember that the risk of thromboembolism is very small and that the Pill is a very effective form of contraception," he said.

Dr Metters dismissed suggestions that the advisers had made a grave mistake in 1995. "They gave the advice that they thought was right at the time," he said. "We are still talking about tiny risks. Women should not think that this is any great risk, but they have a right to be aware of the data. We would have been criticised if we had sat on the data."

Asked if he regretted that the scare led to a surge in the abortion rate, Dr Metters said:

"Of course I regret unnecessary abortions. Any abortion and any unwanted pregnancy is a matter of regret."

Professor Walter Spitzer, author of one of the pieces of research that prompted the original warning and a subsequent critic of the CSM for its "overreaction", said: "It's three or four years overdue. I never saw the need to change the regulations in the first place."

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Britain's biggest provider of abortion services, said it welcomed the return to first-line use of the brands. Its spokeswoman, Ann Furedi, said it had warned in 1995 that the advice given by the CSM was unnecessary and alarmist.

"It was a disaster that should never have happened. It caused a massive hike in the rate of unwanted pregnancies, it undermined confidence in the Pill. We still see women requesting abortion who wrongly believe the Pill is dangerous."

A spokeswoman for the British Medical Association said: "GPs were critical in 1995 of the way this whole issue was handled and it was a nightmare, with increased abortions and unwanted pregnancies. We now seem to be getting back to a situation where doctors can prescribe the contraception that they feel is best for their patients on the basis of their medical history and discussing it with women... we welcome it."

### IN BRIEF

#### Patient gets life for murder bid

A PATIENT at Ashworth Hospital, Merseyside, who tried to strangle another man there was jailed for life yesterday. Paul Harrison, 31, admitted attempting to murder his fellow patient in a plot to get out of the hospital and into a jail, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

#### Students questioned on bombs

TWO STUDENTS at an agricultural college have been questioned about four home-made explosive devices found there last month, police said yesterday. The pupils, from Bickton agricultural college in Devon, have been bailed to report back to a police station next month.

#### Solicitor struck off for theft

A SOLICITOR was debarred from practising by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in London yesterday for stealing £200,000 from a client. Terence Liggins, 54, of Warwickshire – the son of the former Law Society president Sir Terence Liggins – was convicted last May of the theft.

#### Joseph Rowntree Foundation

IN REPORTING on the campaign for a separate parliament for Yorkshire, we incorrectly said that a £25,000 grant had been made by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. In fact, this money has been pledged by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, which is a completely separate organisation. We apologise for any confusion caused.

## Pencil is removed from lung

A SCHOOLBOY is recovering in hospital after spending six weeks with a pencil embedded in his lung – without realising.

The pencil speared Roy Rowlandson's rib cage when he fell over playing football at school. But the 14-year-old from Liverpool did not realise what had happened because the pencil disappeared, leaving only a small cut and a bruise.

Despite some pain, Roy thought nothing more was wrong until he found a lump under his arm and a hospital CT scan revealed the truth.

Four X-rays had failed to highlight the problem as neither wood nor graphite can be picked up clearly. His mother, Paula, said yesterday: "He must be the luckiest youngster in Britain. If he had fallen awkwardly it could have killed him."

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# High-living college in fees fiddle must repay £9m to government

BY STEVE BOGGAN

A COLLEGE has been ordered to repay £9m in government fees after an investigation found it had made claims for ineligible students, funded lavish trips abroad and covered personal expenses on college credit cards.

The inquiry into Halton College in Widnes, Cheshire, has sparked an unprecedented examination of 117 other further-education centres amid growing concerns over lax financial controls.

The Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) and the National Audit Office (NAO) reports are due to be published next week. It is understood the council has examined claims that money was used to fund visits to Hong Kong, the United States, China and France by senior members of staff including the principal, Martin Jenkins, and his deputy, Jenny Dolphin.

The FEFC inquiry, details of which will be revealed on Channel 4 News tonight, found that Halton College had claimed funding running into hundreds of thousands of pounds for teaching students over 16-week courses – but the actual tuition lasted just one hour.

The college also lodged claims for teaching students who lived in Scotland – who are ineligible for grants in England



Jenkins: College principal under suspension

– by not submitting details of their addresses.

More than 170 staff, about one-third of the total, will be made redundant to help the college to repay the fees.

Halton College expanded rapidly when, six years ago, further education establishments were taken out of local authority control and turned into free-standing corporations. It touted for training and education business among big companies all over the country.

Clients included hotel chains, supermarkets and caterers, as well as ordinary students. Halton had already achieved notoriety when it introduced a National Vocational Qualification in shelf-stacking for Tesco. A former manager at the college, who did not wish to

be identified, told Channel 4: "We had students up and down the country who had never seen tutors. Some students didn't even know they were on the teaching programme."

The manager said he had taught students on a one-hour course, but the college claimed for teaching them over 16 weeks. Asked whether the system of claiming fees was "fiddled", he replied: "It's my view that we or the college did, yes. There's no other excuse for it. To claim 16 weeks for a one-hour course is not misunderstanding the rules." For that indiscretion alone, the college has been ordered to repay the funding council £254,000.

For a time, the college appeared to be awash with money. Mr Jenkins, who, with Mrs Dolphin, is suspended pending a disciplinary inquiry, was drawing a salary of £118,000. Lecturers attended "away days" at luxury hotels, such as the Mottram Hall Hotel in Prestbury, Cheshire, which is favoured by Manchester United and the England national side before important matches. Its facilities including a championship-standard golf course.

The former college manager said: "It was well-known that our expenses were unlimited in the first two years. No one bothered, no one checked, no one was interested. We were



Halton College in Cheshire claimed funding for ineligible students, and for 16 weeks of tuition for one-hour courses

making that much money – we were a bit like drunken sailors in port."

The FEFC report is expected to conclude that fees were claimed for "ineligible provi-

sion" of courses to students; expenditure on credit cards "was not adequately controlled"; and there was a lack of controls over travel expenses.

On taking trips abroad,

which were aimed at recruiting foreign students, the FEFC is expected to say: "The number, duration, expense and geographical range of trips taken is out of all proportion to any of the benefits the college claims to have derived from them."

After the investigation into Halton College began, the NAO sent out a questionnaire to 117 other colleges to establish what sort of financial controls were in place. It is understood more than half did not specify who should authorise travel expenses for the principal or vice-principal. The NAO report is expected to recommend tighter controls on college credit cards, provision for a "whistle-blowers" charter and advice to boards

of governors on controlling the expenditure of principals.

In a statement to Channel 4, authorised by Mrs Dolphin, Mr Jenkins said: "I refute the allegations... Halton College was a pioneer in new forms of work-based training, and the FEFC's funding methodology was not designed to incorporate such work," he said. "We were open and transparent with the FEFC officers, who validated our claim after satisfying themselves that it was valid."

John Bolton, the college's acting principal, who was not present during the relevant period, agreed that the college benefited from the way it had interpreted the rules.

"Perhaps we claimed more

than we should have done for some students, and perhaps wrongly added up the numbers of students in other areas. So, yes, the college did make some mistakes."

Asked about the huge amounts the college had over-claimed for courses, he replied: "Students are load-banded and you can claim up to a certain level for each student. And this college claimed at the maximum rather than perhaps the mid-point."

"Perhaps claiming at the mid-point might have been more sensible and, when we went back through the books and the records with the FEFC, quite clearly the college had over-claimed."

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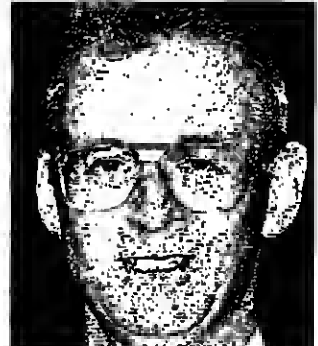
## Teachers fight to keep long holiday

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

TEACHERS VOWED yesterday to fight to protect their traditional long summer holiday. The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) said the six-week summer break was their "last perk" and threatened to boycott radical plans being drawn up in some areas to introduce a five-term school year.

Local authority leaders are developing proposals to re-vamp the centuries-old school year, familiar to generations of schoolchildren. East Sussex, Essex and Newham councils are canvassing parents and education workers on proposals for a five-term year, and similar plans are being considered across London.

Under the proposals, the traditional Christmas, spring and summer terms would be scrapped and replaced with five equal-length terms. Half-term holidays would be abolished and the current six-week summer break would be cut to four weeks. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, told the annual conference in Eastbourne that staff might react by simply



Nigel de Gruchy: Teachers need holiday perk

turning up for their traditional three-term year, if the reforms went ahead.

"The last perk of the teaching profession is the long summer holiday and they had better keep it," he said. "Teachers need it and the kids need it as much. It's absolute nonsense to think that children will forget things during the summer. If they cannot remember for five weeks, what is education worth?"

"It is only happening locally because they realise that if they came up-front with a straightforward proposal to shorten teachers' holidays, they would be faced with revolt." Critics of the traditional year argue that it is based largely on

the needs of harvest-time, and say children lose out because of the lengthy annual gap in their schooling. Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association, said there was no evidence that a long summer break benefited either pupils or their teachers.

He said: "The idea that you need six weeks of summer holiday to recover is interesting when you compare it with every other job in the country. There is no evidence they need a long summer holiday – if holidays were more spread out, teachers would have less stress. We have to consider what is best for the children."

Delegates unanimously backed a motion calling on teachers to oppose any change to the school year. They also attacked any move to extend the length of the working year. The conference was told changes to holiday patterns would play havoc with families' plans and require a wholesale rethink of teaching.

Ian Draper, of the union's national executive, said: "Much of the work we do in schools is devised around a three-term year or six half-term blocks. This is going to drive a coach and horses through it."

## Scottish fossil lizard may be the first land-dweller

BY JOHN VON RADOWITZ

A SMALL lizard-like animal whose fossilised remains have been found in an ancient Scottish lake bed may have been one of the first creatures to live on dry land, scientists reported yesterday.

The 15cm specimen, named *Casineria kiddi*, dates back almost 340 million years to a dark age of animal evolution about which little is known.

All life on Earth can be traced back to the sea. Creatures with limbs and digits had evolved from fish by the end of the Devonian period 365 million years ago. But little is known about the time between this event and the appearance of fully terrestrial animals in the

late Carboniferous period, about 335 million years ago. But the fossil, found in a rock formation called the Cheesefield Bay Shrimp Bed, near Edinburgh, provides a clue to what was happening during those 30 million years.

The creature's remains consist of a number of fossilised skeletal fragments, but the skull is missing. Its most important feature is a five-digit limb – the earliest known in the fossil record.

This marks out *C. kiddi* as a land-dweller, placing it closer to amphibians (modern reptiles, mammals and birds) than

to aquatic amphibians. The discovery suggests that amniotes date back a long way, to an era of rapid evolution early in the Carboniferous period.

A team of English and Scottish experts wrote in the journal *Nature*: "The degree of terrestriality exhibited by *Casineria* indicates that the transition to land-dwelling may have taken place within about 20 million years. The physical resemblance of *Casineria* to known true amniotes from the late Carboniferous period and its apparent phylogenetic relationship to these forms indicates that the split between amphibians and amniotes probably also occurred rapidly within this time-span."



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# Lawrences clash over TV interview

ITV IS to go ahead with an interview with the suspects in the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, despite a last-minute clash with the Lawrence family's lawyer over the programme's content.

Neville and Doreen Lawrence have won the right to watch the programme today before it is aired at 10 o'clock tonight, but ITV insiders say the programme will go ahead whatever their reaction.

Granada Television, which is making the current affairs show *Tonight*, which features the interviews, is keeping the contents of the programme under wraps to try to minimise protests and head off any legal moves to stop the broadcast.

The broadcaster was still editing the interviews late last night after spending the day in negotiations with the family's lawyer, Imran Khan. So sensi-

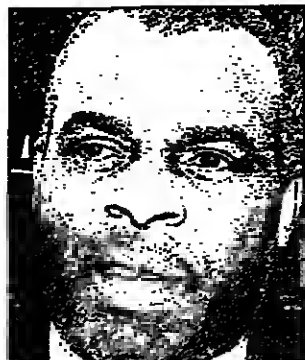
BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

tive is Granada about the programme that it produced a replacement documentary in case it had to pull the programme.

The suspects from Eltham, south-east London - Gary Dobson, Luke Knight, David Norris and Neil and Jamie Acoff - were interviewed separately by Martin Bashir, the former BBC journalist who interviewed Diana, Princess of Wales for *Panorama*.

Jeff Anderson, the editor of *Tonight*, said yesterday: "The programme includes significant new material which may open new avenues of inquiry for the police. However, we are confident it will not prejudice any possible future prosecution of the five suspects."

"The programme is a rigorous and detailed interrogation



Neville Lawrence: Angry his views not considered

of the five suspects and in no way provides them with a platform. No areas of questioning were off limits and no payment was asked for or made."

Mr Bashir had been in contact with the suspects for months to secure an interview and the Lawrences are upset

because they believe they were told that their views would be taken into consideration before a decision was made to screen the programme.

Mr and Mrs Lawrence are known to be angry that the suspects chose not to give evidence at the inquest into Stephen's death or at the private prosecution brought by the family, but will now be able to deny any part in the murder without legal cross-examination.

Granada said its questioning of the five was "meticulous and exhaustive". The men were interviewed secretly in London last month.

The Metropolitan Police began legal proceedings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act last week to try to gain access to the hours of video tape produced, but agreed to wait until the programme is screened before taking action.



A 1926 Rolls-Royce Phantom II arriving for auction at Sotheby's Billingshurst saleroom yesterday in time for tomorrow's sale, where it is expected to fetch up to £20,000. Andrew Haxson

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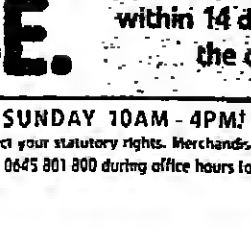
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## Voters believe boosted NHS still in crisis

THE PUBLIC believes the National Health Service is still "in crisis" despite the injection of £21bn in extra government funding, according to the Labour Party's private polling.

The findings are a setback to the Government, which has repeatedly trumpeted its £40bn cash boost for health and education over the next three years. The research is expected to lead to a rethink of Labour plans to convince voters it is keeping the promises it made at the 1997 general election.

Health ministers are expected to highlight tangible achievements, such as the number of nurses recruited, and stop parroting the amount of new money. "We have got to show people that things are actually happening," said a Department of Health source.

Some ministers believe the Government has been a victim of its own rhetoric, since the "new money", announced by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last July did not come on stream until the new financial year, which started this week.

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

Recent "focus group" discussions, which have been reported to Tony Blair show that memories of Labour's five key election pledges are now vague. But people expect the Government to focus on health and education and will believe it has kept its promises only when these services improve.

The research found that voters feel "rather overwhelmed" by the statement that £40bn is being pumped into the NHS and education. The figure was seen as "too big to imagine" because people have seen little evidence of it. "The popular perception is still that the NHS is in crisis," says a summary of Labour's recent polling.

Despite fears about the NHS, there is, the party's research suggests, a strong belief that the Government is working to improve hospitals. Voters agreed that Labour was "on the right track to improve Britain". In contrast people continued to regard the Tories as uncaring.

## Mobiles 'speed reaction time'

THE WORLD'S first study into the effects of mobile phones on the human brain has cleared them of causing memory loss.

Researchers from the University of Bristol found that using mobile phones may actually improve a person's mental performance, as revealed by *The Independent* last month.

The findings will be greeted with relief by Britain's 10 million mobile phone users, who have been subjected to a series of scare stories based on mis-reporting of the Bristol study.

In a series of experiments on a panel of 36 volunteers, the scientists attempted to mimic the effects of being exposed to the microwave radiation emitted from mobile phones during a 30-minute conversation.

Alan Preece, the leader of the research team from the uni-

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

versity and the Bristol Royal Infirmary said: "There appears to be no effect on short-term memory or attention for short exposures to the microwave effects of mobile phones. But there was one noticeable effect: the subjects reacted faster in one test involving a visual choice after the transmissions."

The researchers, reporting in the *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, said the improved reaction time may be due to microwaves influencing the brain's temperature.

Dr Preece said he did not wish to speculate about the risks to health from mobile phones. He said it is for other experts, such as neurologists, to make such assessments.



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# Asians build fortunes in hi-tech and TV

By KATHY MARKS

ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS are abandoning the corner shops and clothing factories on which previous generations founded their business empires and are seeking their fortunes instead in computing, finance and the media, according to a survey published yesterday.

The list of Britain's 200 richest Asians, produced by *Eastern Eye*, a weekly London-based newspaper, provides a snapshot of how the country's most successful immigrant community is evolving.

The list, compiled annually for the past three years, shows that while British Asians are still making money in traditional sectors such as food, fashion and retailing, they are increasingly moving into more modern, dynamic industries.

The wealthiest 200 businessmen and women are worth a total of £7.5bn, up from £6bn last year. At the top of the tree are the Hinduja brothers, Srichand, 63, and Gopi, 59, whose finance, telecommunications and oil empire is valued at £1.3bn. The Hinduja brothers, who offer to underwrite the Spirit Zone in the Millennium Dome, caused a political storm last year, have supplanted Lakshmi Mittal, 48, the Bombay steel magnate who was number one in the league table last year.

Mr Mittal, whose value has dropped from £2bn to £1.2bn thanks to a slump in the share price of his company, Ispat International, is one of the big losers this year.

The list features a lottery winner, three peers - Lord Paul, the metals tycoon, Lord Bagri, chairman of the London Metal Exchange, and Lord Ali, co-owner of the television company Planet 24 - and, for the first time, the author Salman Rushdie. Mr Rushdie's personal fortune is estimated at £5m and, as his agent, Andrew Wylie, pointed out recently, he has not had much opportunity to spend it, because of the *fatwa* imposed against him for nearly a decade.

Other new faces include Iqbal Ahmed, 42, whose shrimp processing company, Seamar, is valued at £60m. Nissim Musry, 71, whose family owns £35m of shares in Wrengate, a



1 Srichand (pictured) and Gopi Hinduja: £1.3bn. The brothers head a family firm with interests in banking and oil. They have offered to underwrite the Spirit Zone in the Millennium Dome.



2 Lakshmi Mittal: £1.2bn. Owner of one of the world's biggest steel companies, he lives in Hampstead, north London, where he is said to entertain in style.



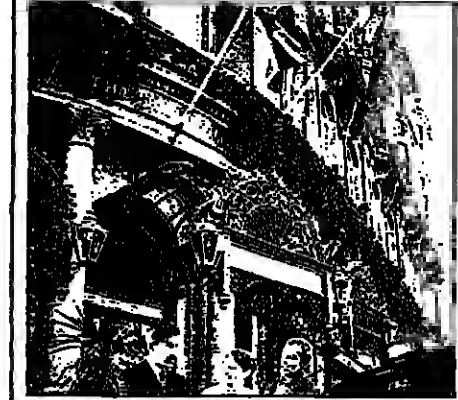
3 Subhash Chandra: £450m. Mr Chandra, 48, made his fortune selling rice to the Russians. He owns Zee TV and is behind India's first Disney-style entertainment park.



4 Lord Paul: £325m. Formerly Swraj Paul, he sits on the Labour benches in the House of Lords. Built up his steel empire, Caparo, after coming to Britain 33 years ago.



5 Felix Grovit: £300m. Mr Grovit, 56, made his fortune through the Chequepoint chain of bureaux de change. Born in India as Fareed Ismail, he left the Bar to move into property.



6 Jasvinder Singh: £200m. Mr Singh, 47, owns Edwardian Hotels, one of the country's biggest independent hotel groups. He came to London from Nairobi in 1970.



6 Tom Singh: £200m. Mr Singh, 49, floated his fashion retail chain New Look on the stock market last year. His family emigrated to Weymouth from India in the late 1940s.



8 Manubhai Madhvani: £150m. One of four brothers running business empire in Uganda till expelled in 1972. Their interests include breweries, sugar refineries and tea plantations.



9 Gulu Lalvani: £120m. Came to Britain as a student. In 1960, he and his brother, Partrapp, set up Binatone, a consumer electronics business, importing cheap radios from Hong Kong.



9 Sir Anwar Pervez: £120m. Sir Anwar, 64, a farmer's son from Rawalpindi, left bus conducting in Bradford to found Bestway, the UK's second biggest cash and carry operation.

Manchester textiles importer, and Mohammed Sheikh, 62, a director of the Bestway cash-and-carry group, with £26m of shares.

Youthful entrants account for the growing visibility of British Asians in the hi-tech industries. At 85, for instance, is Ajaz Ahmed, a 25-year-old tycoon who launched an Internet consultancy, AKQA New Media, in 1993 after dropping out of university and is now worth £14m.

The highest climber from last year is 38-year-old James Caan, a recruitment consultant whose fortune is valued at £61m, up from £34m last year. The most high-profile casu-

ality is Reuben Singh, the flamboyant founder of the Miss Atitude fashion chain.

Last year he was valued at £45m. This year he does not feature at all, thanks to doubts about the sum for which he sold the business.

Charan Sohal, founder of Orbit International, a fashion firm based in Birmingham, said yesterday: "The Asian philosophy is to work for the next generation. We [the elders] have laid down the foundation and it is up to our ambitious sons to build the skyscraper for the next generation."

Sukhdev Sandhu, Review, page 5

## Mother gives part of liver to save son

By CHERRY NORTON  
Health Correspondent

A MOTHER has saved the life of her baby son by donating part of her liver in a unique transplant operation.

Jill and David Bettelley were told that Luke, aged 18 months, had only 48 hours to live because a suitable donor could not be found. Mrs Bettelley, 32, asked surgeons to allow her to donate part of her liver.

The operation, which was successful, has made medical history in Britain - it is the first time surgeons have used a live donor for a transplant patient with acute liver failure and saved someone's life. Other live donor transplants are carried out but they are done with two or three weeks' preparation on people with chronic liver problems, not those who only have hours to live.

"Now we know we can do this sort of operation, we should



Jill Bettelley: Mother and baby Luke are doing well

be able to save 15 to 20 lives a year," said a spokesman for King's College hospital in London, where the operation was carried out five weeks ago. Mother and baby are doing well.

"We expect to keep Luke in hospital for another two or three weeks for observation. We are very pleased with his

progress. He is making a good recovery."

Mrs Bettelley, from Worthing, West Sussex, was said to be tired but recovering. "I could have died on the operating table but that didn't even come into it. My only concern was for Luke and what I could do for him," she said.

Adult donors can give up to half of their liver and survive as the liver regenerates itself over time. It is believed that Luke was given one-eighth of his mother's liver.

Mohammed Rela, the consultant surgeon who carried out the operation, said: "In the absence of a suitable donor, Luke would have certainly died. Jill and David have been marvelous throughout and were very brave and positive, which helped us do our job well."

Luke was brought into King's College hospital on 28 February and operated on five days later.

## Ford Galaxy is voted least satisfying car

By PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

THE FORD Galaxy is the least satisfying car to own, according to an authoritative survey of drivers published yesterday. The people carrier, at one time the must-have vehicle for New Labour families, came bottom out of 114 in a survey of 25,000 viewers of the BBC's motoring programme *Top Gear*.

Cars were evaluated 36 different ways, covering fields such as vehicle performance, service costs and customer care. Ford Galaxy owners reported high problem levels and dealers received low ratings for their ability to fix them quickly.

The Subaru Impreza topped the table and its sister model, the Legacy, came second. Subaru was also voted the best car maker, for the second year running, followed by Jaguar. Vauxhall was bottom of the table of car makers, despite a nine-

point improvement from previous years, with Rover and Ford also below the industry average. While Subaru scored 158 points, Jaguar 154 and Skoda 152, Vauxhall got only 88.

The poll of viewers, who are owners and drivers of P-registered cars, found new cars are getting more reliable and satisfying to drive. As many as 26 of the 32 car companies surveyed showed a year-on-year improvement.

Kevin Blick, editor of *Top Gear* magazine, said: "Let's not get complacent - the companies at the bottom of the survey still have cars which are well below par and leave a little room for improvement." Dave Sargent, of JD Power, which carried out the poll, said:

"There is no doubt that new car quality is getting better, with much of the credit due to customers' ever-increasing demands on the manufacturers."

Vauxhall said that although the company had recorded an improvement it had remained at the bottom of the table because all manufacturers improved at the same rate. A spokesman said the table was distorted by people's expectations. "People who have chosen a Skoda will be more tolerant of its faults," he said.

A spokesman for Ford said its research of 200,000 customers found much high satisfaction levels. He said 12,333 people bought a Galaxy last year, which was twice the market share of its nearest rival. "We believe this indicates confidence in the Ford Galaxy package," he said.

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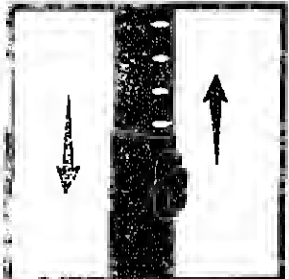


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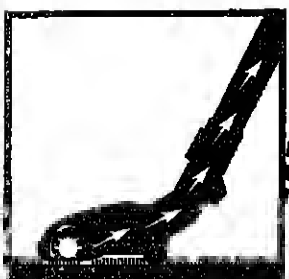
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## Banana war: Last-minute deal could lift threat on luxury goods sector

# US wins the right to impose trade tariffs

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

THE TRADE war between the United States and Europe over banana imports deepened yesterday after Washington gave the go-ahead to impose punitive tariffs on £120m of European exports.

As both America and the European Union claimed a partial victory, the Scottish-based cashmere industry was anxiously waiting to discover whether it would feature on a new "hit list" being drawn up in Washington. It warned that 1,000 jobs in the industry were at risk.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) gave the US permission yesterday to impose 100 per cent tariffs on goods from Europe. It backed Washington's claims that EU rules, which took effect in January, failed to comply with earlier WTO decisions on banana imports.

The US, which wants more access to the European banana market, has long argued that EU tariffs favour former European colonies in the Caribbean over Latin American producers, and European distributors over US companies.

But London and Brussels dismissed America's claims of a "major victory", pointing out that the WTO had scaled down significantly Washington's demand for sanctions on goods worth £314m.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EU vice-president and trade commissioner, insisted the WTO's decision to give the US less than half of what it wanted amounted to "a pretty stunning rebuke".

He said the organisation had ruled that America had "jumped the gun and taken the law into its own hands" by imposing conditional duties last month. He said the US "has been, and remains largely illegal", he said.

Sir Leon said the EU would abide by the rules but would first consider an appeal against the WTO's decision. The ruling would allow the high tariffs to be imposed retrospectively from 3 March.

Despite the latest war of words, the two sides may yet

seek a last-minute compromise that could persuade the US to scrap the sanctions. Both the British government and the US embassy in London raised the prospect of talks aimed at limiting the dispute to bananas, lifting the threat to other products.

Brian Wilson, a Trade minister, said: "This has got nothing to do with cashmere, nothing to do with all these other industries, but purely has to do with bananas... The principle is that of course they shouldn't be taking action against any unrelated industries and that this thing should be settled within the relevant sector."

Peter Chase, economic counsellor at the US embassy in London, said: "We have passed one step in this process and hopefully it will galvanise the negotiations that are needed to solve this problem. But if the EU regime remains illegal and if the problem isn't resolved then we would be authorised to take action against other imports from the EU."

The White House insisted it was satisfied by the compensation it had won, which is the highest trade sanction authorised by the WTO.

The final list of European goods subject to tariffs would be published in a few days, said US officials. They would be selected from the original list, which ranged from Scottish cashmere sweaters and Italian cheese to French handbags and German coffee makers.

Peter Scher, America's senior negotiator on agriculture matters, warned that products would be chosen in an effort to exert maximum political pressure on EU politicians to change their policy on banana tariffs.

Jim Thompson of the Hawick Cashmere Company said the sanctions would cause severe problems for his industry in Scotland. "It will have catastrophic effects - if this actually goes through we are looking at most definitely a thousand jobs in the Borders," he told BBC Radio Scotland.

The cashmere industry is receiving government aid to compensate for losses caused by the US sanctions, but the subsidy ends next week.



The British candle industry could take years to rebuild its exports Geraint Lewis

## Scots exporters hope to escape heavy duty

BRITISH OFFICIALS hope that sanctions against Scottish exports of cashmere sweaters will be dropped after the United States won its argument in the banana trade war.

A panel of experts at the World Trade Organisation has ruled that the European Union was wrong to limit imports for bananas. But it also said that the damage to the US had been less than Washington had claimed, meaning that it must cut its list of sanctions.

The US welcomed warmly the WTO decision, in a case that has dragged on for nearly a decade. Europe gives some preferences to imported bananas from former colonial territories, and US companies that export the fruit from other countries claim they have been penalised as a result. But the experts said the US could impose sanctions of only \$191.4m (£120m) in retaliation. The US drew up a list of products totalling \$320m (£205m), and has begun asking importers for

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

bonds to cover the punitive tariffs it has applied.

Among the products selected were cashmere sweaters from Scotland, chosen because of the potential impact on the Scottish elections. British officials hope the sweaters will not be among the products to be hit with sanctions, which will be announced in the next few days. The issue has been the subject of intense lobbying by ministers.

"This thing should be settled within the relevant sector, which has nothing to do with cashmere, nothing to do with all these other industries, but purely has to do with bananas," the Trade minister Brian Wilson said yesterday. He told the BBC he hoped a trade war could now be avoided. "I certainly am opposed to a hit-for-tat war," he said. "I am opposed to anything which was outside the rules of the WTO or which, indeed, doesn't lead to a constructive

solution based on the problem, which is about bananas."

The EU reacted with disappointment to the ruling. "We will carefully study both the arbitrator's report and the two panel reports and, of course, meanwhile reserve our right of appeal," said Sir Leon Brittan, the EU's trade commissioner. "It is, however, already clear from the arbitrator's report that the unilateral US retaliation currently in place against EU exports has been, and remains, largely illegal, as it is set at a level well over double that determined by the arbitrator. To comply with the law, the US must... immediately end sanctions and the threat of sanctions on over half the trade currently subject to them."

The ruling will allow Europe to give some protection to Caribbean banana imports, but it will have to revise the banana import regime. It has already done so once, but the US said it had not done enough and the WTO agreed.

## TRADE WAR DAMAGE

A NUMBER of small British companies bear the brunt of the trade war. The candle industry, in particular, has been hit hard. Ian Barnett, managing director of Shearer Candles, a Glasgow company employing 40 people, said: "We are in deep trouble. It will affect a third of our business and lose us £1-2m in turnover."

Louise Pope, export manager of the Colony Gift Corporation, a candle manufacturer based in Cumbria, said: "We are still hoping that our particular product will be taken off the hit list."

The company, which has 600 UK employees, relies on exports across the Atlantic for 10 per cent of its business. Ms Pope added: "It could take us years to build up exports again. It's not just our current sales we could lose. There is also the potential business we will lose, which could also now go to our competitors in the East. It's going to be

very difficult to get back in there."

Alex Muirhead, commercial director of Price's Candles, which employs 400 people and exports about 10 per cent of its products to the United States, said: "It's very bad timing. We have been investing a lot of money in America in terms of warehousing and infrastructure. It's been a real blow and could have a real effect on jobs in the UK. Our rivals in Denmark and Holland have been handed orders on a plate."

Isabel Welch, chief executive of the Giftware Association, which has been lobbying the Government on behalf of its members, added: "We are obviously relieved that the sum of money has been cut and we are hopeful that our product will be taken off the list."

"But even if it is, our American contacts have been irrevocably damaged because they have started sourcing in the Far East. Now we have to start building those links again."

## Bubble bursts for vintage claret

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

THE SPECULATIVE bubble in prices of the finest young Bordeaux wines - which have doubled and trebled in recent years - appears to have burst.

The 1998 vintage, though generally reckoned to be one of the best for some time, has been selling in the past few days for up to 25 per cent less than the 1997 vintage, which was universally judged to be poor.

The sale of a good wine for less than a bad one goes against all the instincts and traditions of the growers and traders. It amounts to a recognition by the big Bordeaux châteaux that the steep price increases of recent years threat-

en to ruin the international market for high-quality claret.

"There have been abundant warnings from shippers that prices had to fall this year, however good the 1998 wine might be," one British wine trader said. "The producers have finally seen some sense."

The château-cos-d'estouarnet - the most prestigious claret in the Saint Estephe area of the Médoc - led the way by selling 70 per cent of its 1998 wine at a 25 per cent discount on last year's price. Other high-quality labels have followed

suit in the traditional advance sales of "primeur" or raw, still unbottled wines over the past couple of weeks. Cos-d'estouarnet - one of the worst, speculative offenders - went for the equivalent of £28 a bottle from the château last year (perhaps £40 to retail customers). It sold for £21 a bottle this year.

This follows a virtual stand-off in January and February when many wine traders boycotted the advance bidding. Early sales of the 1998 vintage - despite its excellent quality - were less than one third of the normal level.

The drop in château prices affects only the highest-quality

clarets - £40 to £50 in the shops - which will not be drinkable for another seven years or more. It will have no direct impact on retail prices of more modest bottles of about £10 but it may help to arrest the upward trend in all Bordeaux prices seen in recent years.

Retail prices for the best Bordeaux labels were driven up in the Nineties by a boom in Asian demand, a fashion for claret in America and speculative buying by City traders. Wines were being sold at up to 10 times what the château had originally charged.

Four years ago the château owners gazed at the profits

being made by some shippers and traders, and asked: "Why not us?"

They ramped up the asking price for young Bordeaux "primeur" and, having got away with it one year, did it again, the next and the next.

Last year, partly because of the Asian recession, the market fell flat. Thousands and thousands of cases of the "poor" 1997 vintage were sold in wine traders' cellars all over the world. While these stocks remained on their hands, shippers were reluctant to pay a high price for the 1998 vintage, however good it might prove to be.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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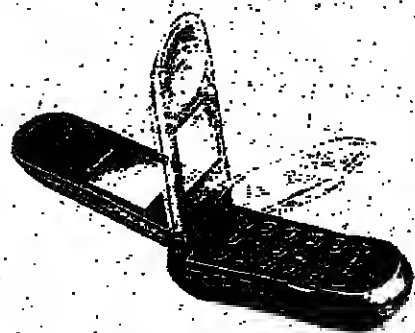


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ONTLINE





# Iraq villages braced for germ attack

THE IRAQI President, Saddam Hussein, is deploying troops wearing gas masks and special white uniforms, designed to protect them against chemical weapons, around Najaf, a city at the centre of opposition to his leadership.

The appearance of soldiers equipped against chemical warfare has caused terror in Najaf, where there are well-founded fears that the government is prepared to use poison gas against them if there is any sign of an uprising. A traveller who left Najaf recently said: "Everybody was so frightened when they saw the chemical warfare suits that they locked themselves in their houses. The streets were empty."

Iraq has used chemical weapons against domestic opponents in the past. In 1988 Iraqi artillery and aircraft used munitions filled with the nerve gases sarin and tabun against the Kurdish town of Halabja, killing 5,000 people.

Iraqi troops equipped with tanks and multiple rocket launchers have sealed off Najaf since 19 February, when Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, a popular leader of the Shia Muslims, who are a majority in Iraq, was shot dead in an ambush with his two sons. He is widely believed in Iraq to be the latest victim of government death squads, who are alleged to have killed four senior members of the Shia clergy in the past five years.

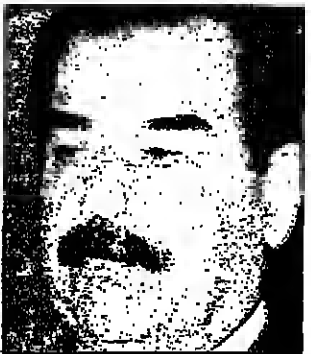
The Iraqi government is aware that any sign that it is about to use poison gas – such as troops wearing chemical warfare suits – provokes terror among Iraqis. In 1991 Iraqi helicopters dropped flour, which looks like a cloud of gas, on the Kurds, in response to their uprising, to speed up their flight to Turkey and Iran.

Opponents of the Baghdad regime living in exile say that President Saddam has chosen

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

this moment to increase repression against the Shia because he knows international attention is focused on Kosovo. Yusuf al-Khoie, a member of a Shia charitable organisation in London, says: "I have seen nothing as bad as this since the uprising after the Gulf War [in 1991]. There are many arrests and executions. Saddam knows the attention of the world is focused elsewhere."

The Shia make up 55 per cent of the Iraqi population but are excluded from power. Pres-



Saddam: Fears Shia clergy

ident Saddam appears to consider the Shia's religious leaders, most of whom live in the holy cities of Najaf, Kufah and Karbala on the Euphrates, as being the most dangerous potential rebels to his rule.

Ayatollah Sadr built up a religious organisation throughout southern Iraq and in Baghdad. Before his murder he appointed community judges and prayer leaders, many of whom have now been arrested. Iraqi security has such a tight grip on Najaf and the other holy cities that it is unlikely anybody other than government death squads could have carried out the assassinations of Sadr and the other senior clerics.

An Iraqi who left Najaf 10 days ago says the govern-

ment's claim to have caught and executed the killers "is only good for Iraqi propaganda outside Iraq. Nobody believes it at home."

The Baghdad government has, however, taken advantage of the assassinations by using them as an excuse to place surviving Shia leaders under virtual house arrest, ostensibly for their own protection. Armed Iraqi security men now prevent visitors from seeing the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

Meanwhile, the US and British governments are seeking to remould the Iraqi opposition at a two-day meeting at a hotel in Windsor, Berkshire, which started yesterday. The meeting is of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the deeply divided umbrella organisation of the opposition, and is to set a date for its general assembly, possibly later in the month.

Hoshyar Zibari, a leader of the powerful Kurdistan Democratic Party, which belongs to the INC, says the aim is to choose a new leadership. The White House, US State Department and the CIA are eager to remove control of the INC from its leader, Ahmad Chalabi, who has strong support in the US Congress.

Mr Chalabi advocates a guerrilla war using promised US equipment in the hope of provoking mutinies within the army. Mr Zibari said he sees the future of the INC as a political organisation and not as a military movement.

The Kurdish parties are unlikely to agree to the INC operating from Kurdistan, the only part of Iraq outside the control of President Saddam, unless they receive cast-iron assurances from the US that it will protect them in the event of an Iraqi counter-attack. Kurdish misgivings about US air support have been compounded by its failure to prevent Serbia expelling the Kosovars.



The Russian Orthodox Patriarch, Alexy II, celebrating the Annunciation in Moscow yesterday Yuri Gripas

## Yeltsin's men of gold in trouble

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

TWO OF seven oligarchs who bankrolled Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign now face arrest warrants, providing graphic testimony of the change in Russia's politics since Yevgeny Primakov became Prime Minister.

Alexander Smolensky used to be one of the most powerful magnates in the country, founder of a leading bank and a man so rich that he could afford to donate 50kg of gold ingots to gild the dome of Moscow's rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

His fellow mogul Boris Berezovsky, head of a media and industrial empire, was so close to the Kremlin he was dubbed a contemporary Rasputin, and considered capable of making and breaking prime ministers. He once claimed credit for Mr Yeltsin's 1996 re-election, saying it was engineered by seven magnates – himself included – who controlled more than half of Russia's economy.

Now both men are abroad – Mr Berezovsky in Paris; Mr Smolensky in Vienna. Both have seen their empires wither after Russia's financial crisis erupted last August. And both can expect to be arrested if they set foot on Russian soil today. If further proof was ever needed that the days of business oligarchs ruling Russia are over, then this is it.

Mr Smolensky's demise marks a particularly sharp reversal of fortune. His banking empire took a heavy hit in the economic collapse. He then set himself at odds with Mr Yeltsin by publicly lamenting the loss of the Soviet Union, and accusing the state of repeatedly robbing the public.

Mr Berezovsky, who helped to rescue two British hostages from Chechnya last year, has long seemed destined for the chop. He is considered an enemy by Mr Primakov, who vowed to crack down on "economic criminals", and in parliament formed a consensus with the ascendant Communists, who resent the oligarchs.

## Missouri keeps concealed arms ban

THE US gun lobby suffered a setback yesterday when the mid-Western state of Missouri voted to retain its ban on carrying concealed firearms.

It was the first time that the United States had put the contentious question of gun control to a popular vote, and the result was seen as a sign that the gun lobby's influence could be on

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

the wane. The National Rifle Association spent almost \$4m (£2.5m) on presenting its case, with newspaper and television advertisements, and speakers, including Charlton Heston, at meetings across the state. The turn-out was far higher

than expected, and exit polls indicated that it was primarily inner-city voters (predominantly black) and suburban voters (predominantly white) who had clinched the victory.

Missouri is one of only seven states in the US where carrying a concealed weapon is banned. The state resorted to a referendum after pro-gun politicians

had repeatedly tried and failed to have the law changed in the legislature.

The "right to carry" lobby has made steady inroads over the past decade, with a majority of states legalising the right. Carrying a concealed weapon is now permitted in 31 states, and allowed with restrictions in a further 12.

## Spring casts a deadly chill in land of majestic beauty

FRONTLINE  
MUZAFFARABAD,  
KASHMIR

KASHMIR LOOKS beautiful at this time of year. The rivers race along the deep valleys swollen by early meltwater and above them the steep slopes of the Himalayan foothills are thick with dark green pines and fragrant with spring blossom. Above the forests, the snow is pure white in the afternoon sun and goes pink in the evening.

But for the people of Kashmir there is no joy in spring. Its coming is signalled not by a cuckoo but by the dull boom of distant artillery pieces and the crack and whoosh of incoming shells. April is the month when the undeclared war between India and Pakistan gets going again after a winter break.

I spoke to Mohammed Yusuf, 62, a teacher, in a hot, dusty street in the Kashmiri town of Muzaffarabad. He hunched shoulders, sucked his gums and looked up at the clear blue sky. His phrases might have been a touch melodramatic but his emotion was obvious.

"Our joys have now finished," he said. "We just remember the past when in the spring the birds were chirping, we were going to the fields, singing our folk songs. Now everything is finished."

Last weekend the first shells fell on the lovely Neelum valley. The valley runs from the snow-capped mountains around Nanga Parbat – one of the world's highest peaks – down through terraced fields and villages to Muzaffarabad. It makes Switzerland look like Basildon. Unfortunately, immediately to the east is the Line of Control – the United Nations-monitored boundary between Pakistan and India.

Neither country accepts the border as permanent and, as a result, every spring



The end of winter brings renewed dangers for the people of Kashmir AP

the shells start to crash down.

Last year there was widespread destruction and scores of people died. For a few weeks, when the bombardment reached its height, refugees poured into Muzaffarabad – a hot and dusty place with an unfeasible amount of corrugated iron on the roofs of its buildings reflecting a sun that is blinding even in April. This year despite the recent thaw in relations between Delhi and Islamabad, everyone is preparing to go through the same thing again.

"It's a nightmare," said Khwajah Ghulam Mohammed, a wholesaler of rice and pulses. "Every year I am doing all right and then the fighting starts and business gets terrible."

Ever since the Hindu Maharajah of Kashmir led his state – with its predominantly Muslim population – into India in 1947 there have been problems. Twice Pakistan – which believes it is the rightful owner of the state – and India have fought wars over its thousands of square miles of valleys, peaks and lakes. The international community has largely given up on the problem and is now reduced to keeping it. Collective fingers

crossed, hoping that the dispute does not spark a conflict between the world's two newest overt nuclear powers.

Last year, immediately after the Indian nuclear tests in May, I interviewed Abdul Qayyum, whose brother, a credit officer in a local bank, was killed in June 1995 by Indian shellfire as he was riding his motorbike up the Neelum valley on his way home from work.

Last week, over tea in his simple home, Mr Qayyum said he could never forgive. "How can I forget this? I am only sad because I have not yet had a chance to get my revenge. The Indian firing has created hatred in us towards India."

Around the city are half a dozen camps for the refugees who have fled from what the Pakistanis call "Indian-occupied Kashmir" and, almost to a man, share Mr Qayyum's feelings. They are now well-established townships with stone buildings, intermittent electricity, shops and cobble streets. The shops are not exactly well-stocked – mainly limited to a few bars of soap and some odd-shaped bits of rubber described as children's toys. There appeared to be an in-

explicable glut of umbrellas. The camps are the recruiting ground for many of the fighters waging a guerrilla war against the Indian security forces. Though the Pakistanis deny it, these mujahedin are supported, armed and trained by organisations closely linked to the Pakistani intelligence services. It is these fighters' attempts to infiltrate Indian territory – which start when the snow on the high passes melts enough to allow passage – that provokes the barrages of artillery fire.

When they reach Indian territory the guerrillas set about matching the destruction wreaked by the Indian shelling in the Neelum valley. Soldiers and policemen are assassinated, houses torched, Hindus massacred. In an awful symmetry, scores of Indians learn to hate like Abdul Qayyum. Peace looks far away.

Everyone knows that when winter comes again the bombs and the bullets will stop while the Himalayan storms layer Kashmir with white. And next year, when the sun starts to strip the snow away, the sounds of spring will once again shatter the peace.

JASON BURKE

DON'T COCK YOUR FINGER

DON'T POP  
YOUR CORK

DON'T 'JUBBLY BUBBLY'

DON'T CALL IT  
CHAMPERS

DON'T MISS  
THE INDEPENDENT'S  
CHAMPAGNE BREAK  
OFFER THIS FRIDAY

RETURN FERRY CROSSING WITH YOUR CAR. HOTEL  
FOR TWO NIGHTS AND A COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLE  
OF CHAMPAGNE FROM JUST £49 PER PERSON.

THE INDEPENDENT

TOKEN COLLECT



Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

## BUSINESS

## SKB faces shareholder revolt over bosses' pay

Rate cut hopes defy services burst

## BRIEFING

## Cornwell Parker ponders offers

CORNWELL PARKER, the furniture and fabrics company which in January said it had received preliminary merger approaches, has received further approaches that may lead to an offer for the group.

In its interim results, the company said it was in talks concerning a possible bid. The comments lifted the share price 14 per cent to 98.5p, valuing the company at £41m. Before January the shares were languishing at less than 55p. Yesterday the company announced six-month profits down from £3.3m to £2.1m, with earnings down from 5.3p to 3.5p per share. There were "some signs the worst may be over," said James Moore, the chief executive.

## Harvey Nichols stake may be sold

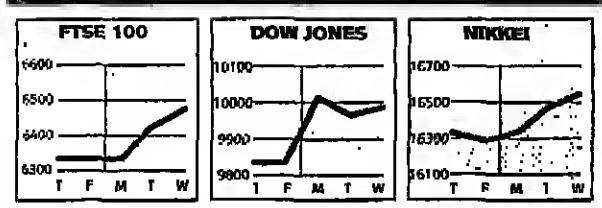
SHARES in Harvey Nichols, the department store group, rose sharply yesterday on speculation that its controlling shareholder might sell its stake. Dickson Concepts, the Hong Kong-based company that holds 50.1 per cent of Harvey Nichols, has called a press meeting this morning to announce the sale of some assets outside Asia. Its shares were suspended in Hong Kong pending the announcement. The market speculated on a Harvey Nichols sell-off, marking the shares up 11p to 188.5p, valuing the company at just over £100m.

Analysts said a bid could come from luxury goods group LVMH. However, other analysts said Dickson Concepts may only announce the sale of the freehold of the flagship Knightsbridge store.

## Clinton Cards on acquisition trail

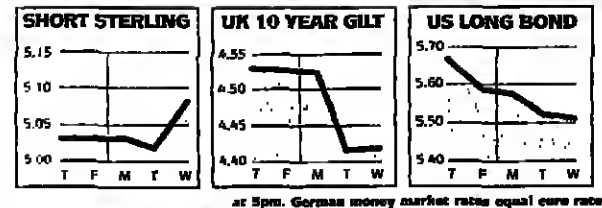
CLINTON CARDS, the card retailer which bought The Greeting Store Group for £28.7m in October, is still looking out for further acquisitions. The company, which now has 718 shops, says it could achieve a chain of over 1,000 by organic growth in the next few years. The group announced a doubling of full-year pre-tax profits to £15.8m.

## STOCK MARKETS



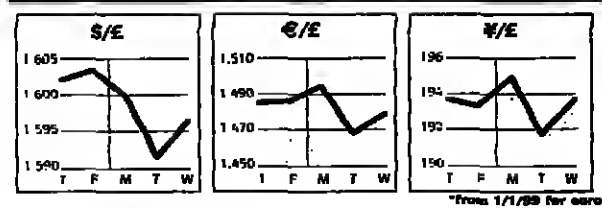
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6473.20	57.80	0.90	6443.90	4599.20	2.42
FTSE 250	5499.50	41.80	0.77	5970.90	4247.60	3.20
FTSE 350	3054.70	26.90	0.88	3050.40	2210.40	2.53
FTSE All Share	2963.26	24.98	0.85	2945.85	2143.53	2.60
FTSE SmallCap	2471.10	4.10	0.17	2723.80	1834.40	3.57
FTSE Pre-Opening	1312.10	2.10	0.16	1517.10	1045.20	3.94
FTSE AIM	869.50	-0.50	-0.06	1146.90	751.30	1.16
FTSE Eurotop 100	2986.19	18.93	0.64	3079.27	2018.15	1.93
FTSE Europe 300	1284.20	9.86	0.77	1332.07	880.63	1.88
Dow Jones	9585.13	23.59	0.24	10085.31	7400.30	1.59
Nikkei	16554.50	74.79	0.45	16756.89	12787.90	0.77
Hang Seng	11618.87	541.89	4.89	11504.09	6544.79	3.05
Dax	5052.27	86.98	1.75	6217.83	3833.71	1.64
S&P 500	1319.21	0.10	0.03	1326.76	928.32	1.21
Holland	2935.31	27.48	0.97	2982.37	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6761.70	-9.11	-0.14	7837.70	5320.90	1.55
Brazil Bovespa	11241.12	76.44	0.69	12339.14	4573.69	3.22
Belgium Be120	3333.94	34.88	1.06	3713.21	2696.26	1.98
Amsterdam Eax	542.55	6.21	1.16	600.65	366.58	1.85
France CAC 40	4318.04	13.96	0.32	4404.94	2881.21	1.67
Milan MIB30	37065.00	-28.00	-0.08	39170.00	26175.00	1.04
Madrid Ibsc 35	10272.70	16.40	0.16	10989.90	6869.90	1.71
High Overall	5375.97	13.23	0.25	5981.70	3732.57	1.54
S Korea Comp	673.36	6.63	0.99	666.73	377.37	1.03
Australia ASX	3029.60	-3.30	-0.11	3034.90	2386.70	3.06

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.30	-2.26	5.25	-2.31	4.42	-1.35	4.42	-1.28
US	5.00	-0.66	5.23	-0.55	5.01	-0.34	5.01	-0.34
Japan	0.17	-0.51	0.24	-0.45	1.69	-0.23	2.44	-0.10
Germany	2.90	-0.72	2.90	-1.00	3.91	-0.96	4.85	-0.56

## CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.5958	+0.30c	1.6673	Sterling	0.6266	-0.12p	0.5998
Euro	1.4798	+0.93c	1.4079	Bund	0.9273	-15.61c	0.8571
Yen	193.64	+¥1.23	222.40	Yen	121.36	+¥0.64	133.45
S Index	101.90	+0.20	108.00	S Index	108.90	-0.10	110.70

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	14.16	-0.19	12.76	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	279.95	0.10	308.50	RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33
Silver (\$)	4.96	0.01	6.39	Base Rates	5.50	7.25	

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4359	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.72
Austria (schillings)	19.62	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1432
Belgium (francs)	57.65	New Zealand (\$)	2.8524
Canada (\$)	2.3245	Norway (kroner)	11.98
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8237	Portugal (escudos)	284.72
Denmark (kroner)	10.66	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.7851
Finland (markka)	8.5179	Singapore (\$)	2.6166
France (francs)	9.3609	South Africa (rand)	9.3874
Germany (marks)	2.8011	Spain (pesetas)	236.98
Greece (drachma)	464.23	Sweden (kroner)	12.80
Hong Kong (\$)	11.93	Switzerland (francs)	2.2844
Ireland (pounds)	1.1234	Thailand (bahts)	54.43
India (rupees)	60.89	Turkey (liras)	57.6150
Israel (shekels)	5.9152	USA (\$)	1.5509
Italy (lira)	2776		
Japan (yen)	188.39		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.7553		
Malta (lira)	0.6112		

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, the pharmaceutical giant, is facing a revolt from shareholders who believe that the bonuses of its top executives are too generous and easy to achieve.

The investors are angry at SKB's share award scheme, which contributed to the controversial £33m nine-year pay package of chief executive Jan Leschly, and are seeking an urgent meeting with the company to discuss their concerns.

One of the investors, the Scottish fund manager Standard Life Investments, is understood to be considering voting against the company's accounts at the shareholders' meeting later this month unless it makes radical changes to the scheme.

## Shortlist of bids for RAC motoring arm

BY MICHAEL HARRISON  
Business Editor

THE RAC said yesterday that it had drawn up a shortlist of six potential bidders for its roadside breakdown arm as it disclosed that the failed £450m offer for the business from Centand of the United States last year had resulted in a one-off charge of £30m.

A decision on whether RAC Motoring Services, which has 5.5 million members, will be sold to a trade buyer or floated is due to be made by next month. The RAC hopes to complete the disposal by the summer.

The sale of the business to Centand would have netted windfalls of £35,000 each for the RAC's 12,000 full members but the deal was blocked in February by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The new shortlist of bidders is thought to include Ford, Centrica, the trading arm of the former British Gas, and Lex Service. Other financial buyers such as Cliven are also understood to have shown an interest.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Standard Life, which is backed by at least one other investor, is understood to be unhappy at the way SKB awards free shares to employees in its mid-term incentive plan.

The scheme is based on Total Shareholders Return (TSR), a measurement of company performance that takes into account the rise in the share price and dividend payments. Under SKB's plans, 350 top executives receive a full bonus if the company's TSR is among the top 20 in the blue-chip FTSE 100 over three years. The level of shares awarded falls as the company

slides down the TSR chart and no bonus is paid if SKB is among the bottom 40 performers.

It is also urging SKB to measure its financial performance against its pharmaceutical rivals instead of the whole FTSE 100 index.

Guy Jobb, director of corporate governance at Standard Life, yesterday said: "We have consistently introduced challenging and stretching criteria. So far the company has not addressed our concerns."

The Scottish fund manager could voice its worries at SKB's annual meeting on 27 April by refusing to approve the company's annual report and accounts. However, Standard Life's tough line is unlikely to be followed by SKB's other major shareholders,

which include Mercury Asset Management and Prudential.

A SKB spokeswoman said: "Any shareholder is free to bring up any topic at the AGM. We believe we have the track record to show that what we are doing is right."

Meanwhile, Sir Dick Evans, chairman of British Aerospace, saw his pay packet rise to £1.25m last year, boosted by an award of shares under the company's long-term incentive plan. Sir Dick earned a salary including pension contributions of £747,000 and a bonus award of shares worth £503,000. Like SKB, the incentive scheme uses total shareholder return as the main basis for calculating awards.

City analysts said that recent evidence of weakness in the real economy - rising unemployment, slower growth and inflation below target - would persuade the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to cut interest rates by a quarter-point to 5.25 per cent.

Figures released by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which showed UK growth grinding to a halt in the first quarter of the year, further backed the case for a rate cut.

The MPC, which announces its rate decision at midday today, is thought unlikely to pump for a half-point reduction following recent optimistic economic surveys. Analysts believe the survey evidence could dissuade the Bank from further rate cuts later in the year, and the pound rose by more than a cent from Tuesday's 18-month low against the dollar.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing Supply (CIPS) study of UK services, out yesterday, was the latest to surprise on the upside. The CIPS index of business activity surged from 49.5 in February to 53.6 in March, suggesting that the service sector had expanded for the first time in five months.

There was also better news from the manufacturing sector, where activity declined by a smaller-than-expected 0.1 per cent in February.

Overall, UK industrial production - which includes manufacturing, mining and quarrying - rose by 0.1 per cent, according to Office for National Statistics figures.

A separate study by the Engineering Employers' Federation, however, pointed to further falls in engineering output in the months ahead.

Jim Rankin, a patrolman with the RAC breakdown service, which faces flotation or sale. *Scottish Daily Record*

## Green sells Freemans to Otto Versand for £150m

BY PHILIP GREEN, the retail entrepreneur who took control of the struggling Sears group three months ago, completed his first big disposal yesterday when he agreed to sell the Freemans mail-order business to the German home shopping group, Otto Versand. The price was thought to be around £150m.

Mr Green said he was now looking out for acquisitions and had the financial firepower for a £1bn deal. "We are in the market to acquire," he said. "We'd buy anything if we thought it was a good deal. We could buy something for £1bn. There are two or three things we've looked at. Nothing's too big, but lots of things are too small."

Mr Green, who received backing from the secretive Barclay brothers in his £540m

BY NIGEL COPE, Associate City Editor

Sears bid, said he was looking for targets where he could utilise his group's management expertise, and that these would not necessarily be restricted to retailing.

The decision to sell Freemans to Otto Versand is not expected to run into problems with the competition authorities, although it does create a more powerful third force in the sector. Otto Versand already owns Grattan, and the Freemans deal would take its market share to 15 per cent, third behind Great Universal Stores with 24 per cent and Littlewoods with 16 per cent.

The sale price is a fraction of the £375m Sears originally agreed with Littlewoods two

years ago before the deal was blocked by the Government. But Freemans has fallen into losses since then, recording a first-half deficit of £2.5m on sales of £240m. Sales in the last full year were £510m.

Otto Versand said: "Freemans is a very important strategic reinforcement of our mail-order group in one of the most important mail-order markets."

Otto Versand is a privately owned group based in Hamburg. It had sales of DM33bn (£11.8bn) last year, of which about half were in Britain.

Since winning control of Sears, Mr Green has been reviewing capital expenditure levels and stock control. There have been some staff cuts at the head office near Oxford Street and at a Leicestershire centre.

## BICC rejects raised £462m Wassall offer

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Wassall's interest became known.

Wassall, which already owns 10 per cent of BICC, said the offer was conditional on shareholders rejecting the sale of the energy cables business and the BICC board recommending its 110p a share bid. Wassall's chief executive, Chris Miller, said that, subject to a recommendation from the board, it could table an offer in a matter of days and urged other BICC shareholders to encourage the board to re-open discussions.

But BICC rejected the increased bid, saying it still failed to reflect the full value and future prospects of the company. Mr Jones also attacked as "mendacious" claims by the Wassall camp that news of its

increased offer had been behind the 13 per cent rise in the BICC share price yesterday to 106p.

Mr Jones also described as "palpably ridiculous" Wassall's estimate that once the energy cables division was sold, the remainder of the business would be worth only 75p a share.

If the sale to General Cable goes through, then BICC, which began life as British Industrial Cables, will have quit the cable business almost entirely.

In the past six months BICC has raised £388m in cash through the sale of its cable interests, enabling it to eliminate group debt. However, there will be an accounting loss of £370m on the energy cables sale, mainly due to a £295m goodwill write-back.

Outlook, page 17

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

## LONDON

BLUE CHIPS enjoyed another record-breaking session. Footsie, encouraged by hopes of a base rate cut, jumped 57.9 points to 6,473.2. At one time it was up 80.8. Mid cap shares, although a long way their best levels, moved ahead sharply but small caps were only marginally firmer. Telewest Communications, the cable group in talks with rival Cable & Wireless Communications, headed the blue chip advance, up 23p to 319.5p. C&WC rose 40.5p to 795p. Fears of profit downgradings lowered Pearson 70p to 129.5p.

Derek Pain, page 21

## NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES INDEX dipped back below the 10,000 level as technology stocks declined on earnings jitters. By the early afternoon, the Dow was up 18.04 at 9981.53, and the Nasdaq Composite, which is dominated by tech stocks, was down 34.48 at 2528.69. Analysts were eagerly awaiting first quarter results from Yahoo!, the Internet company, which were due for release after the market closed. Yahoo! revenues are expected to be more than double to between \$77m and \$81.5m.

## TOKYO

FOREIGN BUYING continued to prop up Japanese stocks yesterday, and the benchmark Nikkei 225 index closed 74.79 points, or 0.45 per cent, higher at 16,594.5. The index was capped by domestic profit-taking amid widespread caution about the outlook for the Japanese economy. There was heavy trading in both Mitsubishi Motors and Mazda Motors following local press reports of a possible tie-up. The two companies said the reports were merely speculation, although shares in both the motor groups soared by more than 6 per cent.

## HONG KONG

STOCKS hit their highest level for 12 months amid aggressive buying of blue-chip stocks, in particular the banking giant HSBC. The Hang Seng index closed up 541.89 points, or 4.89 per cent, at 11,814.87. HSBC set a new 1999 intra-day high of HK\$264, and closed at HK\$263, up 6.05 per cent. Traders said buying interest in HSBC had been sparked by the bank's plans to seek a New York listing, a move which could see HSBC's valuations surge to the levels enjoyed by the major US banks.

## FRANKFURT

GERMAN stocks chalked up modest gains in quiet trade, with the market waiting for today's European Central Bank interest rate decision. The electronically-traded Xetra Dax ended up just 4.98 points, or 0.1 per cent, at 5,027.25. The floor Dax climbed 1.75 per cent to 5,052.27. Traders said the ongoing crisis in Kosovo would limit the upside on shares. One said: "It seems we'll continue our range trading between 4,700 and 5,200, although we could get above that if the situation in Kosovo improves."



INDEPENDENT  
Thursday 8 April 1999

Rate cut  
ropes  
defy  
services  
burst

LEA PATERSON

used  
offer

FRANKFURT

# Wassall should put up or shut up

ALAN JONES, the chief cable layer at BICC, is no stranger to hostile bid battles. When he was in charge at Westland he sucked GKN into a long and bloody skirmish. Eventually GKN came up with a price sufficient to allow the West Country helicopter maker to raise the white flag.

However, the stand-off with Wassall, for all the sound and fury generated yesterday, remains firmly in the category of a phoney war. Chris Miller, who runs this wannabe venture capital trust, has been creeping up on BICC for the past six months, and his tanks are now firmly on Mr Jones's lawn.

He has built a 10 per cent stake and he has made two indicative approaches. His sighting shot was at 90p. He then wrote to the BICC board again (at 6.00pm the night before Good Friday, incidentally) indicating that he was prepared to raise his offer to 110p. But he has not formally tabled a bid and has no intention of doing so unless he has a recommendation from the BICC board in his back pocket. The expense of going hostile is the ultimate deterrent.

In the absence of such a recommendation (and why should this turkey vote for Christmas?), Mr



OUTLOOK

Miller is asking BICC's other shareholders to turn the thumbscrews and force Mr Jones back to the negotiating table.

Mr Jones has other ideas; he has decided to adopt the scorched-earth approach. Since Wassall first appeared on the share register last November, he has sold off virtually all BICC's cable interests, netting £388m of cash in the process and wiping out the group's debts. If the sale announced yesterday of the energy cables business to a US buyer goes through, then there will only be Balfour Beatty to get hold of. Shareholders in BICC may have had plenty to complain of in the past, but their spirits have been lifted

of late. Since Wassall began circling and BICC began selling, the share price has risen by close on 90 per cent. Mr Jones says that is because the market backs his strategy. Mr Miller says it reflects the bid premium in BICC. However, until a formal bid is tabled, there is no way of testing who is right. It is time for Wassall to put up or shut up.

## Train standstill

YOU MIGHT not have noticed, but yesterday was officially Transport Delivery Day. Amid the customary jamboree that accompanies these announcements, ministers were dispatched to the four corners of the country to spread the good news.

In London John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced a new rail passenger champion to kick the failing train operators into line.

John Reid, the Transport minister, was in Leeds to declare West Yorkshire a Centre for Transport Excellence, while the Roads minister, Lord Whitty, hailed a bus in Cirencester to announce an extra

£20m for rural buses and £25m for country roads.

Two years into the first Labour government for two decades, Mr Prescott knows the travelling public is desperate to see tangible improvements - especially on the trains. Unfortunately, there is so far precious little evidence of it.

The appointment of Mike Grant, the Eurotunnel hard man who made 200 banks agree to a £3.6bn rescue package, as chief executive of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) is the final piece of Mr Prescott's "spring clean" of the existing regulatory setup. He is the third member of the triumvirate of Sir Alastair Morton as SRA chairman and Tom Winsor as Rail Regulator.

The difficulty is that all three appear entirely unsure about what powers they actually have. The SRA will not exist until legislative time can be found to create it - probably not until late next year. Meanwhile Sir Alastair chairs the largely defunct British Rail and Mr Grant acts as Franchising Director under a system drawn up by the Tories.

Mr Prescott points to ER's power to run trains - but Sir Alastair used February's Rail Summit

to say that the one thing he won't do is run trains. The Deputy Prime Minister says both Mr Grant and Mr Winsor have considerable powers under existing legislation that their predecessors failed to use. But Mr Winsor says his powers are lacking when it comes to enforcement.

And just when we thought ideology was dead, Sir Alastair condemns the "bad old days when people said 'the Government must do something'", while Mr Prescott says a privately owned railway "works better through the intervention of public bodies". Not much agreement there, by the look of things.

Mr Prescott says the SRA is "in the sidings and ready to go". More in the sidings than ready to go, it might be said. The travelling public - and voters - are standing on the platform, and increasingly impatient, there is still no sign of the train.

## Barclays poser

BARCLAYS' chairman-in-waiting, Sir Peter Middleton, is negotiating a continuing role with the bank for the present chairman Andrew Bux-

ton. Mr Buxton had been expected to sever all connections with the bank after the annual general meeting later this month, but now some kind of ongoing role as an adviser on client relationships in the Middle East is foreseen.

Mr Buxton is a nice enough chap and his knowledge of the bank, as well as his family's long association with it, going back several generations, might seem to justify something short of complete disassociation. This is very much the kind of way of looking at what Sir Peter is doing, however.

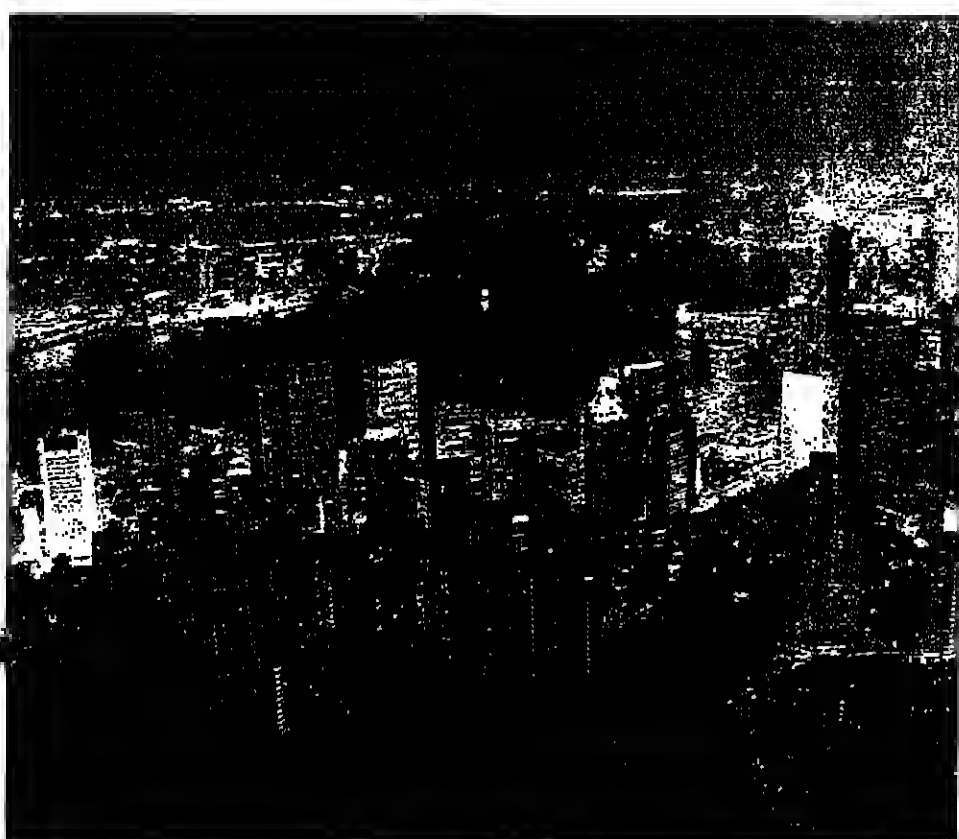
A cruller one would be to regard it as typical of Barclays' inability to turn its back on the past and look to the future. It is never a good idea for executives to continue hanging around after they are meant to be gone: all they do is get in the way of and compromise the new.

This is the case even with chairmen who have proved themselves outstanding leaders. When Lord MacLaurin retired from Tesco at the age of 60, he made a clean break with the company. Rarely was a life presidency more deserved, but he rightly took the view he wouldn't be needed. The same is anticipated for Sir Richard Greenbury when he

bows out at Marks & Spencer later this year.

By contrast, Mr Buxton has proved himself less than top notch. While managing director, he was intimately involved in some of the big property loans that put Barclays into loss in the early Nineties. That didn't stop him ascending to the position of executive chairman. It wasn't his fault that while he held this position the board was at sixes and sevens, culminating ultimately in the petulant walk out of the chief executive, Martin Taylor, but preventing this kind of a shambles is rather what a chairman is there for.

If Sir Peter is already compromising on Mr Buxton's position, what hope does he have of carrying out the urgent root-and-branch reform necessary to modernise the bank in preparation for the digital age? Presumably Mike O'Neill, the new chief executive, is made of sterner stuff. If he ever arrives, that is. When was he meant to join? Late March was the assigned date. So where is he? He had flu, and then there were some loose ends to tie up. He'll be at his desk by Monday at the latest, Barclays insists. Let's hope so.



Mobile phone penetration in Hong Kong, already at 40 per cent, is set to hit 60 per cent by 2001. BT's move also offers a way in to the potentially huge China market.

## BT buys £240m stake in HK mobile operator

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday raised its exposure to the fast-growing Asian market by spending £240m on a 20 per cent stake in SmarTone, the Hong Kong mobile phone operator.

The move continues BT's strategy of buying minority stakes in Asian telecoms operators as governments begin to open up markets. It also gives BT a way in to the potentially huge Chinese market when foreign companies are allowed in.

SmarTone has more than half a million customers and an 18 per cent share of the Hong Kong market, ranking it third behind operators owned by Hong Kong Telecom, which is owned by Cable & Wireless, and Hutchison Whampoa. Penetration of mobile phones in Hong Kong is among the highest at 40 per cent, and is predicted to hit 60 per cent by 2001.

Alfred Mockett, chief executive of BT's overseas opera-

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

tions, said the deal took the group's spending in Asia-Pacific to more than £200m in recent years. Last year BT took a 23.5 per cent stake in the South Korean mobile operator LG Telecom and bought a third of Binariang, the Malaysian group.

"Until two years ago Asia was locked up like a drum," he said. "We believe it is the future engine of growth for our industry." Mr Mockett said BT had identified Hong Kong as one of its eight key target markets in the region, and SmarTone had proved to be one of the best opportunities BT could find. However, he refused to comment on rumours that BT planned to take a stake in Japan Telecom.

The cash injection in SmarTone will ensure the company can fund the development of its business in Hong Kong,

although Mr Mockett said more funds may be needed when licences for the third generation of mobile phone services are auctioned in a few years' time. Last year SmarTone made a profit of HK\$4.1bn (£81m) on turnover of HK\$4.1bn.

Mr Mockett said BT was attracted by SmarTone's ownership of licences to run both 900 megahertz and 1,800 megahertz networks, allowing it to offer dual-band services attractive to business customers.

Other major shareholders in SmarTone include Sun Hung Kai Properties, a property development group controlled by the Kwok family; an investment vehicle run by Hong Kong's ministry of information; and Templeton, the US fund management group.

BT will have three directors on SmarTone's board and will have nomination rights for the post of finance director.

worth of £687,000 or a further £288,000 increase in accrued pension last year.

The company said that Mr Mendelsohn's remuneration is meant to "put him in a position, after taking into account taxation and living cost differentials where he is no worse off than were he to perform the same duties for the group in his home country (the United States)."

In addition Mr Mendelsohn is entitled as from 1 January last year to a further incentive award of shares worth £992,000 which he will be able to cash in the event of certain criteria being met. These include a condition that over a three-year period growth in total shareholder return exceeds that of a basket of 12 leading UK, European and US insurers, and the share price rises by 5-20 per cent.

## Warning on emerging markets

THE ECONOMIC crisis in developing countries will be deeper and more prolonged than anticipated, the World Bank says in a new report today. Growth prospects, it adds, have been hit by a slump in capital flows to emerging markets.

The Bank, the world's leading development institution, has slashed its growth forecast for developing countries to 1.5 per cent in 1999, down from its already subdued December forecast of 2.7 per cent.

This would be the slowest growth recorded since 1982, at the height of the debt crisis, and full recovery is unlikely before 2001.

According to the report, capital inflows to developing countries from the financial markets collapsed from \$135.5bn (£83bn) in 1997 to \$72.1bn last year.

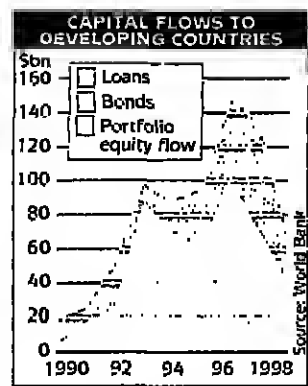
BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

At the same time, official aid from developed to developing countries has fallen substantially and the prospects for future aid remain bleak.

"The decline in aid poses a problem because poverty is increasing. The number of poor in the world is not declining," said Mustapha Nabli, a World Bank economist.

He said that the \$190bn committed by the international community in rescue packages to countries like Indonesia, Korea and Russia, affected by last year's financial crisis, amounted to six times the amount spent on aid to the poorest countries.

The World Bank, which often plays soft cop to the Interna-



tional Monetary Fund's hard cop on the world economic stage, has rarely issued such an outspoken report as this year's *Global Development Finance*, its annual survey on capital flows.

Its gloomy conclusion that the developing world will stag-

nate assumes sluggish growth in the industrialised countries which make up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). But the report says: "There is still a substantial risk that the world economy will plunge into recession in 1999."

There are several linked reasons for the gloom. One is the general slowdown in world growth and the expansion of world trade. A second is the sharp falls in commodity prices.

More important is the closure of world capital markets to emerging economies in the wake of the financial crisis. The report shows that foreign direct investment declined but held up far better than capital inflows from the financial markets. Thanks to the availability of assets at bargain-basement

prices and the drop in exchange rates in many countries, direct investment amounted to \$155bn last year, little lower than 1997's record \$163.4bn.

But the World Bank expects it to decline further this year, in line with weaker world trade growth and diminished profitability. In general, the recovery of capital flows will be slow, it predicts.

All is not bleak in the assessment. Some of the Asian crisis countries - notably South Korea and Thailand - are on the way to recovery as a result of their harsh IMF medicine.

But the report notes that even here, the tough macro-economic policies and radical restructuring have exacted a harsh social cost. Unemployment in both countries tripled between 1996 and 1998.

## CLASSIFIED

Contracts & Tenders

Contracts & Tenders

Legal Notices

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - PC USER TRAINING

The Employment Service (ES), an Executive Agency of the Department for Education and Employment is about to recomplete its national contracts for the delivery of PC User Training. Expressions of interest are now invited from organisations capable of providing PC User Training. The new contract is planned to commence in October 1999 and will be for a period of three years with an option to extend for up to a further two years.

ES employs some 30,000 people in a network of over 1,000 local offices across England, Scotland and Wales. ES operations are delivered on a geographical basis covering Scotland, Wales and seven regions of England, these are: Northern, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands and Eastern, West Midlands, London and the South East and South West. The successful organisation(s) will be expected to offer training which covers the geographical areas above including Sheffield where a number of ES Head Office sites are located.

ES is currently standardised on Microsoft Office Version 4.3 running on Microsoft Windows for Workgroups Version 3.11 including Groupwise which encompasses e-mail linking HQ sites, regional and sub regional locations. ES is currently seeking training provision covering Word 6, Excel 5, Access 2, Powerpoint 4 and Project 4 though this may be subject to upgrading dependent on developments in our IT platform. At the moment ES has only a limited distance learning platform and this is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

Interventions need not be tailored specifically as ES is willing to participate on generally available public domain material.

Organisations interested in tendering for this contract are invited to express their interest now. An information pack containing further information will then be issued and will include a Supplier Appraisal Questionnaire. The response to the questionnaire will be used to enable ES to draw up a shortlist of organisations to be invited to tender.

Expressions of interest should be made in writing to Victoria Hardman, Employment Service, Training and Development Division, Block B, Porterbrook House, Sheffield S11 8JF. Fax: 0114 259 7605 no later than 5.00pm 23 April 1999. Supplier Appraisal Questionnaires should be returned no later than 5.00pm 21 May 1999.

PLEASE NOTE: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED AFTER 5.00PM ON 23 APRIL 1999 AND SUPPLIER APPRAISAL QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED BEYOND 5.00PM ON 21 MAY 1999 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Employment Service



DfEE  
Department for Education and Employment

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF ZENITH GROUP PLC

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24 April 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £2,000,000 to £200,000 and the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company by £1,575,847.40 and the Minute approved by the Court with respect to the capital of the Company is altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 24 April 1999.

Dated the 30th day of March 1999.

Frederick 65 Fleet Street London EC4A 3DF

0171 369 1115

Ref: JGL/CRW/99

Solicitors for the above-mentioned company

No. 001464 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF STOCKBOURNE PLC

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24 April 1999 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £2,000,000 to £200,000 and the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company by £1,575,847.40 and the Minute approved by the Court with respect to the capital of the Company is altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 24 April 1999.

Dated the 30th day of March 1999.

Frederick 65 Fleet Street London EC4A 3DF

0171 369 1115

Ref: JGL/CRW/99

Solicitors for the above-mentioned company

BAILEY - Personal Bailey, late of Bourneville, Dorset, died there on 24th April 1998 (Estate about £4,500).

BLACKFORD - Phyllis Blackford, spinster, late of Stockwell, London SW9, died there on 15th July 1998 (Estate about £2,000).

LEYER - Hannah Leyer, widow, late of Barking, Hampshire, died there on 21st February 1997 (Estate about £4,500).

PINDER - nee Charleston - Marjorie Pinder nee Charleston, widow, late of Hull, East Yorkshire, died there on 24th April 1995 (Estate about £6,000).

POWELL - Edith Constance Powell, spinster, late of Hammersmith, Leicestershire, died there on 31st December 1998 (Estate about £10,000).

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (S.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 38 Broadway, London SW1H 9BS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

The Insolvency Act 1986 (MIRAGE TRAVEL LIMITED) (in Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dornington FIPA re Proprietor & Applicant, 4 Chancery Square, London, EC1M 6BN was appointed (liquidator of the said company by the Members and Creditors on 26th March 1999.

N.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

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News Analysis: Companies say: You can do it in cyberspace, so why can't you do it on TV?

# Drug firms demand right to advertise

THE IMMINENT launch of a new blockbuster drug by Smith-Kline Beecham is set to reopen the long-standing debate over the advertising of medicines on television and newspapers.

The UK group is expected to receive regulatory approval from the US authorities for Avandia, a revolutionary new treatment for diabetes, at the end of the month. The drug, believed to be more effective and to cause fewer side-effects than rivals, is crucial to SKB's future.

With projected annual sales of over \$1bn (£630m) by 2002, Avandia could boost SKB's sales for years to come, changing the company's profile in the same way the ulcer compound Zantac transformed Glaxo Wellcome from a medium-sized drug company into a pharmaceutical powerhouse.

SKB will not declare its intentions until after regulatory approval but, given Avandia's importance, industry experts believe it will support the product launch with a mass marketing campaign on the US media. A series of high-profile advertisements for Avandia would highlight the gap between the US, where drug advertising is allowed, and Europe, where both European Union and national laws have imposed a blanket ban on drug adverts.

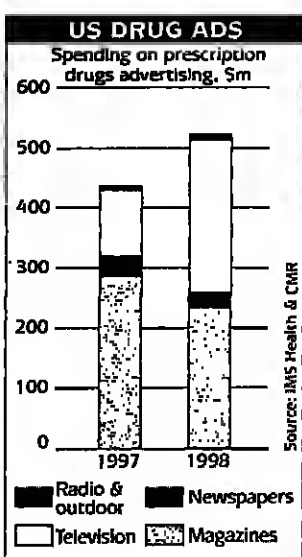
The debate over pharmaceuticals marketing has been going on for some time, but it is set to heat up in coming years as the growth of the Internet is blowing large holes in European media laws.

In the US, strong lobbying by pharmaceutical groups led the authorities to allow direct-to-consumer advertising (DTC) in August 1997. The ruling, which followed years in which companies were heavily restricted in marketing their products, opened the floodgates of advertising investment. Last year, the US pharmaceutical industry

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

spent over \$1.2bn on marketing products to the public, with around half of that going to promote medicines that can only be prescribed by a doctor.

TV spots, such as the one featuring the former Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole promoting the impotence treatment Viagra, struck a chord with a health-obsessed public and contributed to an 11 per cent rise in US drug sales to nearly \$100bn. Drug adverts are now a regular feature of US prime-time TV and have also been shown during the American football



Source: IMS Health & CMI

Super Bowl, the biggest TV event in the US.

Supporters of the American system claim that DTC benefits patients because it raises their disease awareness. Recent figures show that last year, advertising prompted over 20 million Americans to talk to their doctors about illnesses they had never mentioned before. The adverts proved particularly effective for diseases such as diabetes, depression and heart ailments, where cases may not

be diagnosed. John Kamp, of the American Association of Advertising Agencies, said: "Government agencies and medical professionals can use their tools until they are blue in the face and not reach the people that could be reached through television."

Others believe that direct advertising of prescription medicines fosters a healthier relationship between patients and doctors. Robert Jones, the director of corporate policy at Glaxo, agrees. "The role of the patient is changing. The patient is much less of a passive recipient of medicines than years ago. The idea that the doctors know best is dying."

But if DTC has such a beneficial impact on the pharmaceutical industry and its customers, why has it not been introduced in Europe?

Opponents of advertising believe that adopting the US policy could have devastating social and economic implications for the European healthcare industry. From a financial viewpoint, national governments are dead against a system that could inflate strained health budgets.

As the US experience shows, DTC increases demand for medicines as more and more people get to know about treatments. Last year Schering Plough spent an astonishing \$182m on media promotions of its allergy product Claritin and saw sales leap by 31 per cent to \$2.3bn.

Soaring drug sales are not a government concern in the US, where the bulk of healthcare expenditure is funded by private insurance schemes. In Europe, however, an advertising-led boom in medicine sales would have to be met by public expenditure and would jeopardise many governments' efforts to cut health and social security budgets. One industry figure said: "There is no way EU governments would go the way of the US. It is just too expensive."



Marketing dreams: Former US presidential candidate Bob Dole, here with his wife Elizabeth, lent his support to the impotence drug Viagra. Montage: Jerome Cornick

Pharmaceutical companies and some experts dispute this, arguing that doctors will keep a tight grip on drug demand as they have the final say on which medicines they prescribe. Jerry Avorn, professor at the Harvard Medical School, said: "There is no pharmaceutical company or patient that puts a gun to a doctor's head to write the prescription."

However, doctors complain that DTC puts them under pressure to prescribe. One leading US physician warned its European counterparts on the dangers of adverts: "The problem is that (DTC) creates misdirected expectations and desires. Increasingly we find patients coming in and saying: 'I want this drug,' even though that treatment may not be appropriate."

These misgivings are being increasingly challenged by the spread of the Internet. European consumers can now find information about drugs and diseases by hitting on one of the thousands of pharmaceutical websites. A recent survey showed that healthcare had overtaken pornography as the most popular Net sector.

The key worry of drug companies and regulators is that most of the information on the Web has not been vetted and could prompt consumers to choose the wrong drugs. For example, there are over 20 sites debating Avandia even before its launch. Viagra is on nearly 150 locations, many of them unauthorised by its maker, Pfizer. Some drug companies believe the Internet's increasing

popularity will force European governments to allow adverts. According to Mr Jones of Glaxo: "There is a kind of technical inevitability about it because of the power of the Net."

SKB agrees. "We are increasingly concerned at unregulated sources of information. Consumers have the right to accurate information about medicines," a spokeswoman said.

# Tax ruling takes Electra by surprise

By ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

ELECTRA, THE venture capital trust, yesterday suffered a blow in its efforts to fend off a hostile £1.25bn bid from rival Si after an adverse ruling from the Inland Revenue which threatens to land thousands of private investors with an unexpected tax bill.

Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra, wrote to shareholders yesterday to inform them that the Revenue has refused clearance for the proceeds of the £54m tender offer to be treated as capital rather than income. This means that higher-rate taxpayers who tender their shares will not be able to take advantage of the £7,000-a-year capital gains tax exemption and will be liable for the difference between what they paid for the shares and the 786p-a-share price at which the shares are being bought back. It is believed that up to 15 per cent of Electra's capital is in the hands of individual investors.

The ruling which took Elec-

tra by surprise appears to be part of a wider crackdown by the Revenue on investment trusts. Advice from Electra's solicitors and leading counsel was that the clearance under Section 703 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 would normally have been given.

The reconstruction proposals are a key plank in Electra's bid defences, and the Electra camp sought to play down the implication of the decision. It insisted that the numbers affected were small and few private investors had been expected to subscribe to the tender. But analysts pointed out that with the bid battle finely poised, the views of the 10 per cent of shareholders potentially affected by the ruling could be significant.

"It is very odd," said Iain Scoullier, investment trusts analyst at Warburg Dillon Reed. "It does add to the confusion."

# Waterfall launches hostile £41m bid

WATERFALL, THE pool hall operator run by John Garrett, the former Rank director, yesterday launched a £41m hostile bid for its rival European Leisure, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The long-awaited all-share bid threatens to break open the merger between European and Allied Leisure, announced earlier this year. However, European immediately rejected the bid and questioned the accuracy of Waterfall's accounts.

Waterfall is offering 203.5 shares for every 100 European shares, valuing them at 115p

each. Under the terms of the deal, European shareholders will hold 70 per cent of the enlarged company's share capital.

The announcement, which was made after the market closed last night, came after the Irish Takeover Panel ordered Waterfall to make its intentions clear. European said it planned to continue recommending Allied's offer, which will leave European shareholders with 52 per cent of the enlarged equity. A spokesman said the company did not believe Waterfall was the right partner.

## COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
James Beattie (F)	104.28m (103.54m)	10.24m (8.25m)	16.5p (15.3p)	10.75p (5.75p)	21.05.99	04.05.99
Blackleys (F)	9.44m (10.35m)	-1m (0.23m)	-2.2p (0.03p)	0.15p (0.3p)	01.07.99	28.04.99
Clivedon Holdings (F)	5.85m (1.25m)	3.05m (4.13m)	7.71p (4.33p)	3p (0.5p)	28.05.99	19.04.99
Clifford Cards (F)	208.42m (162.72m)	15.8m (7.68m)	17.54p (5.32p)	4.50p (-)	07.05.99	10.05.99
Crownhill Factors (F)	41.12m (45.02m)	2.11m (3.31m)	2.5p (5.2p)	1.5p (1.3p)	08.05.99	10.04.99
Eastfield Energy (F)	2m (0.5-9m)	-4.49m (4.62m)	-4.05p (0.06p)	-	-	-
Friendly Hotels (F)	77.8m (60.8m)	14.7m (7.8m)	54.5p (25.5p)	8.3p (5.5p)	13.06.99	18.04.99
Gallant Group (F)	41.023m (30.02m)	4.253m (5.54m)	14.12p (11.03p)	5.44p (4.13p)	06.05.99	19.04.99
Intermediate Capital Group (F)	17.7m (-)	20.75m (12.92m)	20.7p (23.1p)	19.5p (-)	21.06.99	01.05.99
Maple Street Group (F)	153.74m (147.65m)	16.13m (19.6m)	12.27p (14.90p)	6.3p (6p)	01.06.99	26.04.99
Orbita Stores (F)	111.8m (92.9m)	1.5m (10.4m)	16.71p (11.13p)	8.25p (7.5p)	23.01.99	14.05.99

(F) = First; (F) = Financial; \* Excluding VAT

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## SPORT

The Masters: Nicklaus may be missing, but new superstars promise a thrilling battle for the famous Green Jacket

# Woods relishes duel with Duval

BY ANDY FARRELL  
in Augusta

SOME THINGS at the Masters never change. The prize fund for the 63rd playing of the tournament will be released quietly by officials of the Augusta National Golf Club over the weekend. Players know what Mark O'Meara won last year - \$576,000 - but this is the only event of the year where they tee off without the up-to-date prize breakdown.

Even if the prize fund reaches the level of the Georgia State lottery this week - \$190m (£120m) - they would not care. Winning the title and getting to wear the Green Jacket denoting membership of the club is far more valuable.

Few other sporting events play on the aura of tradition as much as the Masters. Yet it is all an illusion. Changes happen all the time at Augusta but, like the new cluster of 18 trees between the 15th and 17th fairways, they appear to have been around forever.

It is less than 20 years since the greens were switched to bentgrass, the fastest putting surface, and 26 years since the dramatic 12th was shown on live television for the first time. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Sam Snead becoming the first player to be presented with the Green Jacket upon winning the event, while it only became the Masters in 1939, previously having been the Bobby Jones Invitational.

One tradition has come to an end. Jack Nicklaus, who underwent replacement hip surgery earlier this year, is not playing after 40 consecutive visits in which he won six times and provoked an outpouring of nostalgia with his sixth-place finish a year ago. "It is like your wife losing the diamond from her wedding ring," Greg Norman said of Nicklaus' absence.

But, in the great man's place, comes a contest to savour between Tiger Woods and David Duval. It is almost as if the rest of the field does not exist, which is as good a reason as any for getting a bet on an Ernie Els or a Lee Westwood.

The leading two stars are inescapable, however. Even Duval admits Woods is a star and Augusta is his patch. Having helped his mentor, O'Meara, into a Green Jacket last year, it is safe to assume that the 1997 record-breaking champion would like nothing more than to have O'Meara put a jacket on his shoulders.

Duval, the new world No 1, appears the man to stand in his way. Nothing seems to bother the man, not even being called a "duffler". "That's the way I like to play my golf, stress-free," he said. What does make him mad is having a double bogey on his card, but there have not been many of those recently.

A reserved character, Duval is none the less evolving under the spotlight into a class act, on and off the course. The latter has followed the former, where he has won four times this year and is the first man since Doug Sanders in 1966 to win the two weeks prior to the Masters.



Troublesome pines: Lee Westwood gets his first feel of the adjusted 17th hole, remodelled with new trees just to the right of the tee David Cannon/Allsport

THE TEE has been moved back 25 yards at Nandina to give the 425-yard, par-four 17th hole extra length. Until last year, players could hit a pitching wedge into the green but will now be forced, depending on the wind, to play their approach with either an eight or a five iron.

Sanders went on to finish fourth at Augusta. As well as Duval is playing - he leads six of the 10 statistical categories on the US tour - he will need fortune to remain on his side to make his third win in a row his first major. "I think it is a matter of time," Duval said of breaking his duck at the highest level. "A lot of stuff has to come together in a given four weeks of the year."

Last year's runner-up, Duval would not swap his 11 wins in the last 18 months for a big one. "No, because they will be an important part of winning a major," he said. "And I'm definitely not going to give away the Players win."

As for the great rivalry, both players are right to downplay it, at least until Sunday afternoon. "I have got to go out and play against the course as well as the rest of the field," Woods said. "David is not playing against me, or me against David. I've got to

get myself into contention on the back nine on Sunday, just like in '97." Two years ago Woods was out of sight by that time but Duval picks up the same theme. "You can't put a rivalry label on it yet because Tiger and I have not come down the last nine holes at the Masters or the US

Open or any other major. Until that comes to pass, it's hard to make the comparison with Nicklaus-Palmer or Nicklaus-Watson."

As for feeling that Duval is short on puff after the last two wins, forget it. "I won't have to rely on adrenaline. If you can't get pumped up for

named because the former US President hit into it so often, he campaigned to have the pine removed.

A cluster of trees added to the right of the 15th fairway also comes into play on the right of the 17th, forcing those who have to hit around the Eisenhower Pine to

strike a right-to-left draw. Previously considered a weak penultimate hole, the changes to the 17th could have a telling effect on the 63rd Masters.

They are also the most controversial adjustments to the Augusta National, with the longest hitters rel-

atively unaffected but others forced to shape their tee shot more precisely and hit a longer approach. "Wow, what a tee shot," said the non-playing Jack Nicklaus. "The 17th needed something. It has played too short and too easy for a 17th hole too long."

Westwood plays with O'Meara and the US Amateur champion, Hank Kuehne, for the first two days. Due to the size of the field, with 96 players the fourth-largest ever play will be in threeballs for the first two days for only the second time. For the first time the draw will be flipped on Friday, as at other tournaments, rather than having the leaders off last in the second round.

"We wanted to make it fair for the players by giving them a morning and an afternoon time," said William "Hootie" Johnson, the new Augusta chairman. Along with the lengthening of the course, the addition of rough and a re-jigging of the exemption criteria, Johnson has presided over what appears to be radical changes. "We want to keep up with the game of golf worldwide," Johnson added. "But we take a little time to make up our minds." No change there, then.

While Montgomerie's confidence is fragile, Westwood is buoyant, despite sleeping badly on Tuesday night with the symptoms of a heavy cold. On his third appearance at Augusta, the 25-year-old is feeling more comfortable at the venue. "There is nothing like actually playing somewhere competitively to give you experience," he said. "Having watched it on TV for so many years, I was a bit overwrought with the whole thing when I first came here."

A student at Georgia Tech, Kuehne became a favourite with the gallery for his beaming smile. It was with the same countenance that he achieved a 14th-place finish at the US Open and, showing a taste for the big time, his stroke average is better in PGA Tour events than on the collegiate circuit. "It's still very difficult to believe what the Masters brought me," said

elder brother, Trip, played, Trip, the 1994 US Amateur runner-up to Woods, will caddy for Hank this year. Watching will be their sister, Kelli, a US Amateur champion in her own right and now an LPGA Tour player.

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Kuehne, who was treated in hospital on Tuesday for dehydration and flu-like symptoms, but should be able to play today. "I was pretty much an unknown going into the tournament but, when I left, it seemed everyone in the world knew who I was," he said.

No amateur has ever won the Masters, but that has not stopped Garcia dreaming. "The amateur field is pretty strong this year, so maybe we can do something good," he said. "It would be very difficult, but I think it is possible for someone to win. It would take the week of your life playing great, putting great, doing everything right."

It is time to find out if the Work-sop-based 25-year-old is ready to take over the European mantle at the Masters? On form he is the main contender. Only Duval has more wins over the last 18 months and after a slow start to the season finished sixth at the Players two weeks ago. Natural fade will help to land his approach shots softly on the treacherous greens. Has results of 24th and 44th in previous two Masters but now says he is ready to compete with the best.

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## FIVE TO TWEAK TIGER'S TAIL

FRED COUPLES

Led for the first three days in last year's Masters but the unflappable one took a dramatic double-bogey seven at the 13th, hitting one ball out of bounds and another into Rae's Creek, to lose out to Mark O'Meara. Helped by the most outrageous piece of luck when his ball stayed up on the bank in front of the 12th hole on the way to winning the 1992 Masters, in 14 Masters, he has had eight top-10 finishes and has never been lower than 35th. Fourth in The Players' Championship two weeks ago.

ERNIE ELS

His eighth place on his debut in 1994 remains his best finish in the Masters. Considered a natural for Augusta with his length and his fine short game, the South African has lurked just outside the top-10 without threatening in the last three years. Known as the "Big Easy" after showing more patience than anyone else to win two US Opens, but can get rattled here. Beat Woods, Duval et al to win the Nissan Open in February but cooled in form since.

SHIGEKI MARUYAMA

Decided he wanted to be a professional at the age of 11 after he saw Tom Watson winning the 1981 Masters. He has been tipped to become the next top player from Japan by the great Jumbo Ozaki himself after winning three of the country's four majors in 1997. Starred at the Presidents Cup last year, gaining Most Valuable Player nomination from his international team-mates for his 5-0 record. Missed the cut on his only Masters appearance last year but has had three top-10s in five tournaments around the world this year, plus a quarter-final showing at the World Matchplay.

VIJAY SINGH

He has the length but must have his putting - which can vary from very good to particularly bad - to be at his best. His Masters record is nothing to write home about. Has missed the cut twice in five appearances with a best of 17th two years ago. But has all the capabilities and the confidence of being a major champion after winning the USPGA Championship in Seattle last August. While all the attention is on Duval and Woods, The Fijian could become the world's hottest player by winning back-to-back majors.

LEE WESTWOOD

It is time to find out if the Work-sop-based 25-year-old is ready to take over the European mantle at the Masters? On form he is the main contender. Only Duval has more wins over the last 18 months and after a slow start to the season finished sixth at the Players two weeks ago. Natural fade will help to land his approach shots softly on the treacherous greens. Has results of 24th and 44th in previous two Masters but now says he is ready to compete with the best.

# Garcia more than just a gifted amateur

THE LAST time the British Amateur champion made the cut at the Masters, Sergio Garcia was not born. But the 19-year-old Spaniard is hoping to succeed where others, including his compatriot Jose Maria Olazabal, failed in playing all 72 holes for the first time since Peter McEvoy in 1978.

That is not the limit of a player who is expected to turn professional in time for the Spanish Open in two weeks' time. Garcia is hoping to match Matt Kuchar's achievement in earning a return trip.

While Kuchar, the 1997 US Amateur champion, did so by finishing 21st last year, the bar has been raised

## Teenage Spaniard has ambitions beyond just making the cut. By Andy Farrell

and Garcia must aim for the top 16. "If everything goes right, maybe I can get in the top 16," Garcia said. "That would be a good tournament." Garcia has the lowest handicap ever recorded in Europe of +5.4. Having won everything in the amateur game, he has spent the last year playing European and Nike tour events, making 20 cuts in 27 events, the first at the age of 15. He already has one pro title in his name, the 1997 Catalan PGA.

Known as "El Niño" - the "gift-

ed child" - Garcia is the son of a club professional from Castellon, near Valencia. His world travels have been supported by a family friend, Jose Marquina, who is based in Miami.

Blessed with the modern power game off the tee, Garcia has also inherited the flair and imagination in shot-making and short game skills of Olazabal and Seve Ballesteros. "Seve has helped me a lot of tournaments," Garcia said. "He has been like almost a second dad."

As well as practice rounds at Au-

gusta with Ballesteros, Garcia's preparations include playing in the Georgia Cup in Atlanta against his counterpart as US Amateur champion, Hank Kuehne, winning 6 and 4. Kuehne is thought to be a longer hitter than Tiger Woods and, like the 1997 Masters champion, hit a pitching wedge for his second shot at the 15th in practice.

Kuehne has shaved his head ever since undergoing rehabilitation for alcoholism four years ago. He admitted himself to the programme after being involved in a 65 mph car accident, in which fortunately no one was killed. Due to his rehab, he missed the 1995 Masters in which his

elder brother, Trip, played, Trip, the 1994 US Amateur runner-up to Woods, will caddy for Hank this year. Watching will be their sister, Kelli, a US Amateur champion in her own right and now an LPGA Tour player.

A student at Georgia Tech, Kuehne became a favourite with the gallery for his beaming smile. It was with the same countenance that he achieved a 14th-place finish at the US Open and, showing a taste for the big time, his stroke average is better in PGA Tour events than on the collegiate circuit. "It's still very difficult to believe what the Masters brought me," said

Kuehne, who was treated in hospital on Tuesday for dehydration and flu-like symptoms, but should be able to play today. "I was pretty much an unknown going into the tournament but, when I left, it seemed everyone in the world knew who I was," he said.

No amateur has ever won the Masters, but that has not stopped Garcia dreaming. "The amateur field is pretty strong this year, so maybe we can do something good," he said. "It would be very difficult, but I think it is possible for someone to win. It would take the week of your life playing great, putting great, doing everything right."

HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE TO AUGUSTA NATIONAL: WHERE THE MASTERS CAN BE WON AND LOST	
<p><b>1st (Flowering Crab Apple), 205yds, par 3:</b> A long iron is needed to a bare green which claims more than its fair share of victims. Par is always a good score, even when the tee is moved forward for a pin position just over the front bunkers.</p> <p>1998: 3.26 average (Rank 3). O'Meara: 2-3-3-2</p>	<p><b>4th (Pampas), 365yds, par 4:</b> A real birdie opportunity. An iron off the tee leaves a pitch to a narrow green surrounded by five bunkers. The third, control of spin is essential to finish close.</p> <p>1998: 4.01 average (Rank 15). O'Meara: 4-5-4-4</p>
<p><b>2nd (Pink Dogwood), 575yds, par 5:</b> Lengthened since last year, bringing the bunker on the right into play. Only big-hitters will try for the green in two. Two bunkers guard the slender green where Nick Faldo once holed a 100-foot eagle putt.</p> <p>1998: 4.77 average (Rank 17). O'Meara: 5-5-5-4</p>	<p><b>7th (Camellia), 485yds, par 4:</b> A dramatic hole which plays sharply downhill. Players try to find the left-hand side of the fairway, which kicks the ball down. Over all the years of the Masters this has been the hardest hole.</p> <p>1998: 4.16 average (Rank 8). O'Meara: 5-4-4-5</p>
<p><b>3rd (Flowering Peach), 350yds, par 4:</b> Often an iron off the tee to leave a full shot to a pear-shaped green. Anything short can spin off down a steep bank.</p> <p>1998: 4.19 average (Rank 5). O'Meara: 5-4-4-3</p>	<p><b>10th (Camellia), 485yds, par 4:</b> A dramatic hole which plays sharply downhill. Players try to find the left-hand side of the fairway, which kicks the ball down. Over all the years of the Masters this has been the hardest hole.</p> <p>1998: 4.16 average (Rank 8). O'Meara: 5-4-4-5</p>
<p><b>4th (Juniper), 180yds, par 3:</b> Jose Maria Olazabal lost by one in 1991 after taking seven here in the second round. There is a huge tier in the green and only a precise shot can get close to the flag when it is on the ledge back right.</p> <p>1998: 3.24 average (Rank 4). O'Meara: 3-3-3-3</p>	<p><b>11th (White Dogwood), 455yds, par 4:</b> The start of Amen Corner, where Nick Faldo won his first major, and Larry Mize chipped in to beat Greg Norman in 1987. The green has been raised since last year.</p> <p>1998: 4.16 average (Rank 9). O'Meara: 4-3-4-4</p>
<p><b>5th (Magnolia), 435yds, par 4:</b> Jack Nicklaus holed his approach here twice in three days in 1995, but the growing of rough around the course could have a big effect here, making it harder to control shots to the viciously sloping green.</p> <p>1998: 4.14 average (Rank 10). O'Meara: 4-4-4-4</p>	<p><b>12th (Golden Bell), 155yds, par 3:</b> The best-known par three in golf. It is the shortest of the four short holes, but the wind swirls, and club selection is all-important. Anything on the slender green brings a sigh of relief. Tom Weiskopf took 13 in 1980.</p> <p>1998: 3.32 average (Rank 2). O'Meara: 4-2-2-3</p>
<p><b>6th (Carolina Cherry), 430yds, par 4:</b> Not a very testing drive, but then comes the difficult part. The green sits from back to front again, and it is possible to roll back off the green and 50 yards or more down the slope in front.</p> <p>1998: 4.03 average (Rank 14). O'Meara: 4-5-3-4</p>	<p><b>13th (Azalea), 485yds, par 5:</b> A sharp dog-leg left which can produce anything from an albatross - left Maggert five years ago - to Tommy Nakajima's 13 in 1978. Rae's Creek runs down the left-hand side and then in front of the green.</p> <p>1998: 4.74 average (Rank 18). O'Meara: 4-5-4-5</p>
<p><b>7th (Yellow Jasmine), 550yds, par 5:</b> Reachable in two for only the long hitters as there is a steep climb from fairway to green. There is trouble left of the green, but Bruce Devlin did not see that in 1967 - he achieved an albatross two.</p> <p>1998: 4.87 average (Rank 16). O'Meara: 5-4-5-5</p>	<p><b>14th (Chinese Fir), 405yds, par 4:</b> No bunkers but joint course record holder Nick Price managed to run up an eight six years ago. The green is one of the most undulating, and attacking the flag can be dangerous.</p> <p>1998: 4.18 average (Rank 6). O'Meara: 5-4-4-4</p>
<p><b>8th (Carolina Cherry), 430yds, par 4:</b> Not a very testing drive, but then comes the difficult part. The green sits from back to front again, and it is possible to roll back off the green and 50 yards or more down the slope in front.</p> <p>1998: 4.03 average (Rank 14). O'Meara: 4-5-3-4</p>	<p><b>15th (Firethorn), 500yds, par 5:</b> A very different hole to last year. No mounds on the right, instead a group of tall trees will penalise any pushed drive. Most players will still try to cross the water and make the green in two.</p> <p>1998: 5.09 average (Rank 13). O'Meara: 5-4-4-4</p>
<p><b>9th (Carolina Cherry), 430yds, par 4:</b> Not a very testing drive, but then comes the difficult part. The green sits from back to front again, and it is possible to roll back off the green and 50 yards or more down the slope in front.</p> <p>1998: 4.03 average (Rank 14). O'Meara: 4-5-3-4</p>	<p><b>16th (Redbud), 170yds, par 3:</b> The tee shot is over water and the green slants significantly to the right. Semi-circular putts are a common occurrence.</p> <p>1998: 3.18 average (Rank 7). O'Meara: 4-3-3-3</p>
<p><b>10th (Camellia), 485yds, par 4:</b> A dramatic hole which plays sharply downhill. Players try to find the left-hand side of the fairway, which kicks the ball down. Over all the years of the Masters this has been the hardest hole.</p> <p>1998: 4.16 average (Rank 8). O'Meara: 5-4-4-5</p>	<p><b>17th (Nandina), 425yds, par 4:</b> Former President Eisenhower, a club member, hit the huge pine removed. Instead, it was named after him. A new back tee brings it more into play and there are trees on the right now as well.</p> <p>1998: 4.10 average (Rank 12). O'Meara: 4-4-4-3</p>
<p><b>11th (White Dogwood), 455yds, par 4:</b> The start of Amen Corner, where Nick Faldo won his first major, and Larry Mize chipped in to beat Greg Norman in 1987. The green has been raised since last year.</p> <p>1998: 4.16 average (Rank 9). O'Meara: 4-3-4-4</p>	<p><b>18th (Holly), 405yds, par 4:</b> The drive down an avenue of trees favours a left-to-right shot: Sandy Lyle hit a seven-iron to 10 feet and sank the putt to win in 1988.</p> <p>1998: 4.13 average (Rank 11). O'Meara: 4-4-4-3</p>



# Why devolution does not suit British sport

A FEW days ago even people who don't give tennis a second thought unless the fuzz ball is flying around at Wimbledon were held enthralled by the stirring effort put in by Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski when representing Great Britain against the United States in the Davis Cup.

Of course, any sporting tussle in opposition to our former transatlantic colonies can have the effect of one nation, one flag but the fervour generated by a packed house at the Birmingham Indoor Arena last weekend had special significance.

It unlikely to have weakened the resolve of those who see no



KEN JONES

future in the United Kingdom it made a case for supposing that sport in this country won't happily embrace the devolutionary process.

In a directive recently issued to its staff the BBC advised dis-

cretion with the term "British" for fear of offending the Scots, Welsh or Irish. And yet some of our most enduring sports memories have resulted from the setting aside of cultural differences in a common cause.

If one outcome of the upsurge in nationalism is that a new sports picture replaces the old it doesn't necessarily amount to progress.

A Welsh victory over England at Wembley on Sunday would thrill me no end but it would be a great shame if developments in world rugby since the advent of professionalism put paid to the Lions.

The Ryder Cup will be defended against the United States this year by a team representing Europe, but its traditions are embedded in the history of British golf.

A team drawn from the four home nations will be sent to next year's Olympic Games and this summer's World Athletic Championships.

One of the few things upon which I find myself in agreement with the sports minister, Tony Banks, is that we should have one not four national football teams.

When, some years ago, I was invited by Uefa, the governing body of European football, to

set down views on this in its official magazine, a call came from the late Ted Croker who was then secretary of the Football Association. It became abundantly clear from our conversation that the FA would argue against publication of the article unless it conformed to their hidebound position.

One of my arguments was that having, with Scotland's support, cast off and more or less bankrupted the Irish and Welsh by abandoning the Home International Championship the FA had made it unlikely that some outstanding British players of the time would be seen in major inter-

national tournaments. In fact, George Best, who is perhaps the outstanding post-war British player, never appeared in the World Cup finals.

If you want to know why Great Britain no longer send a football team to the Olympics look no further than the determination of the authorities to block any loophole that could be expanded to strip away the perks of autonomy.

The differences between us are not easily understood abroad. For instance, Americans are a damn sight clearer about what it means to be Scots or Irish than to be Welsh despite the fact that the first and only

president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, was of Welsh descent. Thus, Richard Burton was thought of as an English actor, as is Anthony Hopkins.

When Colin Jones of Wales was in the United States preparing to meet Milton McCrory for the World Boxing Council welterweight championship the *New York Times* described him as an English boxer. Never one to let an insult slide Jones sought out the offending author and gave him what for: "Call me British if you like," Jones growled, "but I'm Welsh not bloody English. I'm as Welsh as Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey."

"You mean they're not English?"

A fault of the English is to think themselves British when it suits them. Following England's failure to reach the 1974 World Cup finals a number of English football writers who had been assigned to cover Scotland showed up at Hampden Park for a friendly against West Germany. "Didn't take you long to jump on the bandwagon. Suppose we're all British now," was the kindest thing said to them.

Last week we were. Not for the first time in sport and, if I've got it right, not for the last.

Five Nations' Championship: Teenage wing out of the Lomu mould earns debut in Grand Slam finale at Wembley

## Hanley called in to worry Wales

THE rugby league giants of Wigan shifted heaven and earth last summer in an effort to secure Steve Hanley's thumbprint on a professional contract - an entirely understandable move given that the 19-year-old wing from Cumbria boasted both the pace of Gary Connolly and the physical dimensions of Central Paul. Union was far closer to the Hanley heart, however, and he will receive a handsome return on his loyalty at Wembley on Sunday when he wins the first of what may well be a deluge of England caps by facing Wales in the Grand Slam match.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, gave Hanley the glad tidings during a team meeting at Twickenham on Tuesday. "There was no advance warning. Clive just read out the starting line-up from the top and my name was the fifth one he mentioned," said the latest hoy wonder yesterday, adding: "I don't think I heard a single word of the rest of the team announcement." If Hanley was churning with emotion inside, he presented a cool facade to his new team-mates. "My sense of humour being on the perverse side, I thought I'd string him along a little," said Woodward. "It didn't work. When he heard his name, there wasn't even a flicker."

Ordering on the Lomuesque at 6ft 4in and 16st, Hanley will play on the left wing, with Dan Luger switching flanks to fill the hole opened up by David Rees' absence through injury. "We're lucky with these guys, they are both perfectly happy on either wing," said Woodward, whose instinctive boldness would not permit him to solve the wing problem by tapping into Tony Underwood's experience. "Steve could have slotted in on the right, but we decided it would be better to keep him in his club position for his first appearance. It's a case of letting him do what he knows best at this stage."

Hanley moved into Premiership rugby with Sale only eight months ago, making the short hop down the M6 from Aspatia, where his father Melvin had long been part of the fabric. He played much of his early rugby at outside centre - heavy enough to survive the trials and tribulations of life as a Test midfielder - but the bush telegraph started beating to the sound of his exploits out wide. "Until I watched him last Saturday, he'd scored two tries every time I'd seen him play,"

By Chris Hewett

beamed Woodward. "We're talking pedigree here, real fire-power. I'm genuinely excited at the prospect of seeing him play at the highest level."

Quite how Hanley will be used against the Welsh, who possess two outsized wings of their own in Gareth Thomas and Dafydd James, rather depends on Jeremy Guscott. The Bath centre was duly named in the side yesterday and was described by Woodward as "100 per cent fit". However, the coach added that he would continue to monitor his longest-serving back throughout the week, which suggested that Guscott had yet to stretch his fragile hamstring in training.

If the maestro fails to make a Wembley date positively dripping in sentimentality - it marks the passing of the Five Nations' Championship, which becomes the Six Nations next year, and will almost certainly be the final union international to be played beneath the twin towers - Hanley may well find himself in his Aspatia position of centre. Austin Healey, back in business after eight weeks in the cooler for stamping on the face of the London Irish scrum-half Kevin Patt, is on the bench, as is Nick Beal, and both could play wing if required.

"I have no problems with bringing Austin straight back in from suspension," said Woodward, who will undoubtedly receive an ear-bashing from some quarters for his hasty rehabilitation of the Leicester miscreant. "I'm not here to judge anyone. All I know is that Austin is available and while two months on the sidelines might have affected some players it's not an issue with him. He's one of the fittest players in the whole squad."

As per usual, Woodward's favourite pack is retained en bloc, the Leicester-dominated forward eight have been together since last November's Cook Cup match with Australia and, all things being equal, are unlikely to change before the World Cup. John Mitchell, the assistant coach with special responsibility for lashing the heavy brigade into shape, is looking for a "major statement" on Sunday. "We were off our game a little against France, so I'm looking to go up a gear," he said, much as he did before last year's corresponding fixture. On that occasion, England scored 60. The Welsh have been warned.



Gregor Townsend has given Scotland something to cheer in the Five Nations' Championship and now the No 10 has France in his sights on Saturday

## Townsend the Brive rides again

CONTRARY to popular opinion in some of the more one-eyed rugby outposts of the British isles - Pontypridd springs instantly to mind, thanks to that notoriously lively night in Le Bar Toulzac some 19 months ago - the small French town of Brive is not a no-go area for those possessing a cell or two of Celtic blood in their veins. In fact, the respectable burghers of the Correze are really quite keen on the polite, quietly-spoken Scotsman who has taken possession of a tasty little pied-à-terre overlooking the market square for the duration of his stay with the local side.

Whether the Brivistes will still feel like clutching Gregor Townsend to the communal breast this time next week rather depends on what happens in St-Denis on Saturday. Should Scotland achieve a second springtime victory in Paris in the space of four years to complete an unexpectedly meaningful challenge for the Five Nations title, Townsend will no doubt be on the receiving end of the odd Gallic barb. Moreover, if the most imaginative British stand-off of the decade should add insult to injury by winning his one-on-one battle of wits with Thomas Castaignède, the bottle-blood darling of the *Tricolore* aristocracy, he could find his next helping of truffle soup spiked with something nasty.

On the other hand, it may well be that Townsend will continue to be lionised by all who spend their Sunday afternoons at the Parc Municipal des Sports, irrespective of events at the Stade de France. Brive, the 1997 European champions and beaten finalists a year later, have come alive again after a

Scotland's swashbuckling stand-off has heeded his French lessons and is hoping to turn them on the hosts at Stade de France. By Chris Hewett

distinctly rough spell in domestic competition and, according to the locals, the resurrector is not unconnected to the fact that their Scottish import has started to play.

And when Townsend plays, fairly average back divisions tend to perform above their station. Not that the Brive backline could be described as average - not with Philippe Carboneau and Lisandro Arbizu sandwiching the outside half from Edinburgh, and David Venditti, Pascal Bormati, Sebastien Carrat and Christophe Lamaison prowling the wide open prairies. No, it is Scotland's bread-and-butter back division that the maestro has pulled, pushed and prodded into the stratosphere over the past nine weeks or so. And to think, Jim Telfer was planning to make a full-back of him! People have been burned at the stake for lesser heresies.

Typically, Townsend deflects much of the praise in the direction of his new straight man, John Leslie, an apparently inexhaustible repository of New Zealand know-how who has tightened Scotland's midfield act to tourniquet level. "Oh

yes, he's good," says the No 10 of his No 12. "John is the sort of player who makes a stand-off feel good about himself, just by being there outside him. He's always desperate for the ball, which suits me fine because I always want to do something with the ball once we've won it. He never bides and he never drops you in it. If something goes wrong, or you've made a bad call, he'll take the ball up, protect it in contact and give you the chance to start over. He's such a mature player and some of that maturity has rubbed off on me, I think."

If there is one allegation Townsend's critics have seldom hesitated to throw in his face, it is one of immaturity. Not, of course, immaturity in the Gazza sense - during the 1997 Lions tour, to which he contributed immeasurably more than he was given credit for, he did not touch a drop until the series was won - but in his reluctance to cut his coat to suit the available cloth. Too often, according to the nay-sayers, his ideas fizzle into nothing; there are no percentages to his play, no steady hand on the tiller, no discipline. In other words, he should be far more boring.

It will never be Townsend's way, thank the Lord. Ian McGeechan, who coached him at club level last season and also picked him ahead of Neil Jenkins as the Lions' stand-off in South Africa, is fond of saying that "Gregor's thought processes are a yard quicker than everyone else's". That should be read as praise, not criticism. McGeechan, a big

Townsend supporter, did not get to coach three Lions parties by asking his best players to be less inspired.

Yet Townsend is not always so full of self-confidence as his brilliance would suggest. "That Lions tour was very important to me because I needed to prove to myself that I could play 10 at the very top level. It's where I most enjoy playing, always have done, but for various reasons. I haven't always been picked there. I find I need to convince myself over and over again, especially when I've spent a fair bit of time playing in a different position."

"When things went well for me on Scotland's tour of Australia last summer, I thought I might be in for the long run. But I popped a shoulder a few weeks after moving to Brive and when Scotland came to play the Maoris at Murrayfield before Christmas it was only my second game back. I had a rough afternoon and Jim dropped me for the Springbok Test. It happens. I was back for the start of the Five Nations, though, albeit at centre. That pleased me. I love being a part of the championship."

Duncan Hodge's injury midway through the opening game with Wales at Murrayfield forced Telfer into making policy on the hoof and the old curmudgeon's instincts proved sound. Townsend slotted into the fulcrum position. Alan Tait went from bench to outside centre, the Scots threequarter line started to crackle and, suddenly, heaven was a place on the outskirts of Edinburgh. They have

barely taken a backward glance since; even though they allowed England to sneak a win at Twickenham a fortnight later, they claimed a moral victory.

"A missed opportunity, for sure," says Townsend, a try-scorer that day. "We had that English defence at sixes and sevens, especially after half-time, and I don't think anyone would have been too outraged had we gone on to win the match. We're still making the breaks - we made them against Italy and also against the Irish - but we're more confident now, more aware of our own ability, which is ideal from Jim's point of view."

Quite where Townsend will play his rugby after this autumn's showpiece tournament remains unclear: he has an option for another season with Brive, but he may indulge his wanderlust once more and look to broaden his rugby education - and his life in general - elsewhere. "I'm loving Brive, now that I've found my feet and learned some of the language," he says. "Just as importantly, the domestic championship has really taken off these last few weeks. I found the club game here a little flat at first, but since we reached the last 16 stage, all the colour and buzz you associate with French rugby has appeared. The whole town came out for a recent game with Montferand and it was exactly what I came to experience."

"Still, there are other things I want to do. Super 12 rugby down in the southern hemisphere fascinates me; I'd love to give that a whirl some day. At the same time, the Allied Dunbar Premiership is going from strength to strength and, with the English clubs back in Europe, there will be a lot going on at home next season. I don't really have any master plan. I want to be challenged and I want to try new things. That's all."

It is a stone cold certainty that Townsend will try new things at the Stade de France on Saturday afternoon and that his duel with Castaignède will tickle the fancy of every *gfcornado* in town. If, as in 1996, Townsend makes this championship his own, the most adventurous rugby spirit of the age will surely win over all those critics who live their lives a yard off the pace.

"We had the English at sixes and sevens. If we had been a little bit more aware we could be chasing a Slam this weekend"

INTERNATIONAL LINE-UPS

ENGLAND TEAM  
(to play Wales at Wembley on Sunday)  
M. P. Perry (Bath), D. Luger (Harlequins), J. Mitchell (Newcastle), J. Guscott (Bath), S. Hanley (Sale), M. Cast (Bath), M. Dawson (Northampton), J. Leonard (Harlequins), A. Sedgwick (Gloucester), M. Johnson (all Leicester), T. Redfern (Northampton), M. Hill (Gloucester), L. Duffell (Worcester), M. Black (Leicester).

FRANCE TEAM  
(to play Scotland in Paris on Saturday)  
B. Hameau (Stade Toulousain), J. Garbajosa (Stade Toulousain), P. Gaboriau (Stade Toulousain), C. D. D. (Stade Toulousain), T. Castaignède (Stade Toulousain), P. Carboneau (Stade Toulousain), R. Bonnafe (Stade Toulousain), F. Bernabé (Stade Toulousain), D. Broussais (Stade Toulousain), T. Lebarbier (Stade Toulousain), C. Jullien (Stade Toulousain), A. Auriedon (Stade Toulousain), S. Marconnet (Stade Toulousain), M. Dufrenoy (Stade Toulousain).



















## SPORT

THE MAGIC OF THE MASTERS P22 • ENGLAND BOYS' BOY WONDER P23

## England shattered by Shoaib

THERE IS just over a month before England play their first match in the World Cup but the circumstantial evidence coming from their opening game in Sharjah, where they conceded their highest-ever score, is that some advantage will have to be considerable for Alec Stewart's side to even get near the final, let alone win it.

According to bookmakers and pundits alike, Pakistan are not even one of the favourites for that competition, yet they managed to thrash England here by 90 runs. Stewart's boys in blue have now lost seven of their last eight one-day internationals.

Not content with scoring 323 for 5, 10 runs more than the previous record which the West Indies notched up in St Vincent in 1994, Pakistan removed any notion of a counter-attack when Shoaib Akhtar, combining belligerence with blistering pace, took three early wickets. Following as it did so soon after the indignities meted out by Ijaz Ahmed,

CRICKET  
BY DEEK PRINGLE  
in Sharjah

Pakistan 323-5  
England 233  
Pakistan win by 90 runs

who played 137 from 130 balls, and Inzamam-ul-Haq, who made 59, England began to sink from view even faster than the setting sun and were finally all out for 233 in front of a disappointing crowd of around 2,000.

Bowling at speeds consistently above 91 miles per hour, Shoaib would have been a handful on a length of putty and later in the piece he nearly decapitated Robert Croft with a rapid, but illegal, bouncer. Come to think of it, the only thing currently quicker in these parts are the taxi drivers who ply their kamikaze trade up and down the highway between Sharjah and Dubai.

Mind you, the bulk of the damage had essentially been

done before Shoaib had got the white ball in his hand and successfully chasing scores of 300-plus are rare against Test-playing countries.

England have only conceded such scores on four occasions. More worrying, especially for those who take note of trends, is that three of them have come in the last calendar year: the others being against the West Indies in Trinidad last April and, more recently, against Sri Lanka in Adelaide.

To be fair, England had few things go their way on the day. Pakistan are playing some superb one-day cricket at the moment and, once Stewart had lost the toss, a lapse that consigned his team - despite the later spin start - to fielding when temperatures were nudging the 100 degree mark, the bad omens were writ large.

What perhaps made matters worse was that the searing Shamal which blew in from the great empty quarter of Saudi Arabia had switched to become

a pleasant sea breeze by the time Pakistan came to field under the floodlights.

Stewart, who has had a dismal time winning the toss since assuming the captaincy - he has lost 12 of the last 17 - did his best to rally his flagging troops, but short of 11 sprinklers, they looked beyond revival.

The heat obviously played havoc with his memory as well and having repeated himself ad nauseam that England's tactics would be consistent with winning the tournament, rather than perhaps experimenting for the World Cup, he placed a heavy burden on the debutant Andrew Flintoff, by bowling him at the death.

For Flintoff, whose seven overs cost 62 runs - his last two balls of the innings both went for six - the experience was bound to be a humbling one. Perhaps this is what Stewart intended when he asked him to bowl in place of the vastly more experienced Adam Hogg.

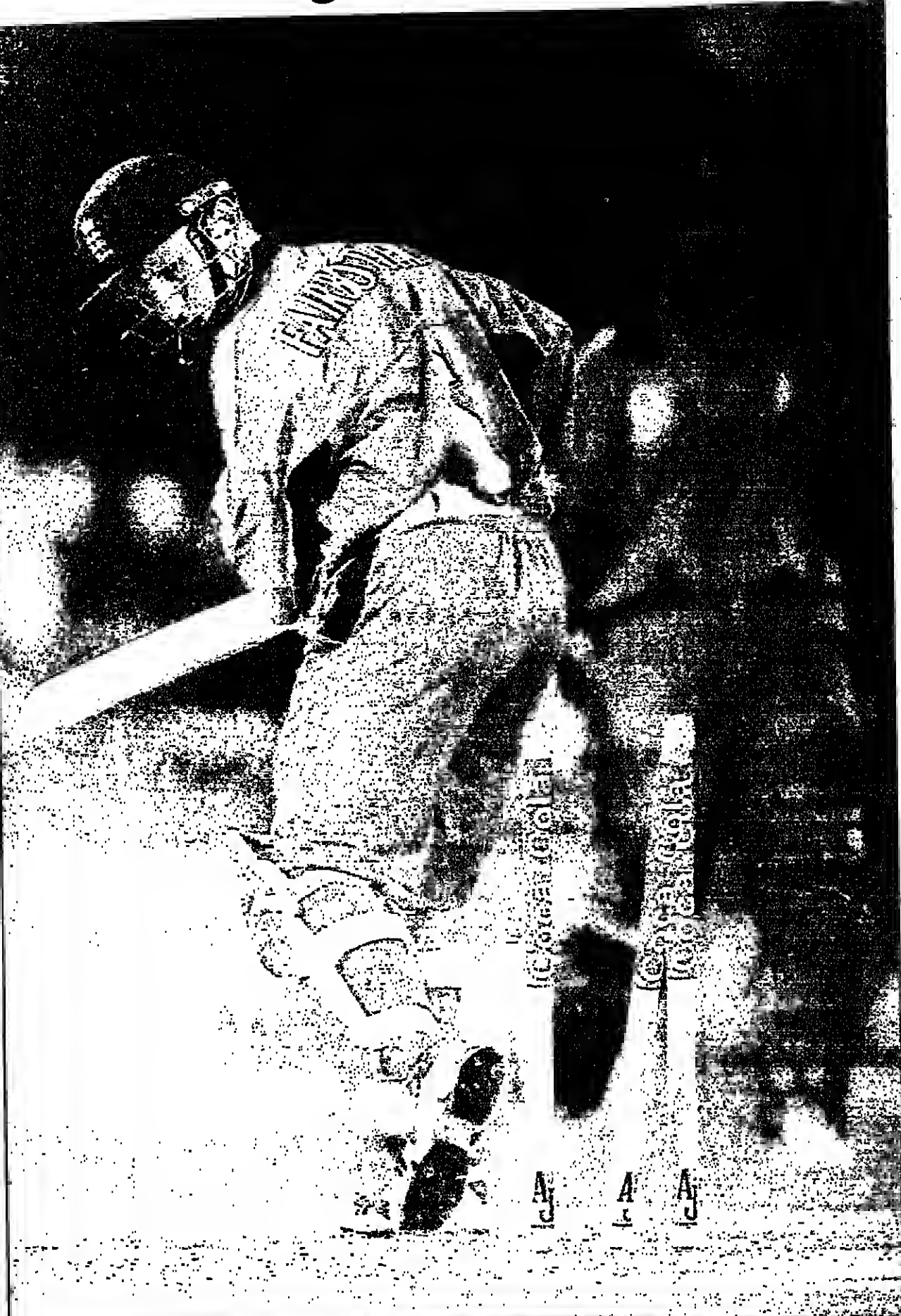
As it was, Flintoff's batting almost made good the debt as he belted 50 from 51 balls, a power display that included four mighty sixes. In fact at one stage, when he and Graeme Hick were assaulting Pakistan's support bowling to all parts of the Emirates, England almost got themselves on course for an upset.

Having added 94 in 17 overs however, both fell to Saqlain's wily off-spin within the space of four balls, the omnipresent Shoaib taking two fine catches to complement his dynamic efforts with the ball.

Chasing a large total is never easy even on docile surfaces such as this one. Indeed, had England managed to overhaul the 323 asked of them, the justice system in Pakistan, responsible for probing allegations into match fixing, would probably have intervened.

As it was they won with just the merest of hiccups, an impressive performance that enhances their coach's claims that they are a side capable of winning the World Cup. Certainly they have a wealth of experience and it is probably worth noting that this was Ijaz's 222nd one-day international and his 42nd on this ground. That is more than most of the current England players have managed in their entire careers.

Australia triumph, page 27



England's Neil Fairbrother surveys the damage after being bowled by Azhar Mahmood for 19 yesterday. Allsport

## SHARJAH SCOREBOARD

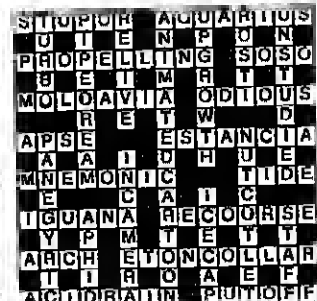
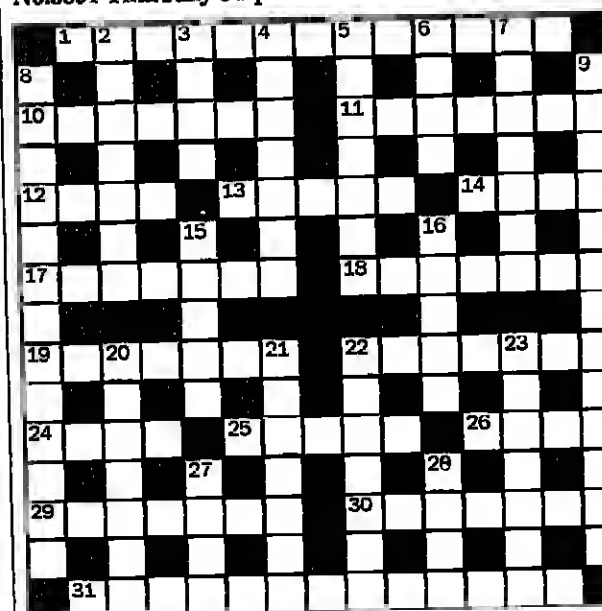
Pakistan won toss	
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	
Saeed Anwar c Stewart b Gough.....17	(26 mins, 27 balls, 2 fours, 1 six)
Shahid Afridi c Gough b Elliott.....41	(92 mins, 54 balls, 3 fours, 1 six)
Ijaz Ahmed c Hick b Gough.....137	(165 mins, 120 balls, 12 fours, 3 sixes)
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Hick b Gough.....59	(109 mins, 64 balls, 3 fours)
Muhammad Aslam c Hogg b Flintoff.....23	(26 mins, 15 balls, 3 fours)
Moin Khan not out.....29	(13 mins, 14 balls, 2 fours, 2 sixes)
Azhar Mahmood not out.....0	(1 min, 0 balls)
<b>England</b>	
Saqlain (b, 10, w, 3, nb).....18	(19 balls, 3 fours)
Flintoff (b, 22, 11, 5, 5, 5).....65	(90 balls, 6 fours)
O P Thorpe c Ashraf Mahmood.....17	(13 balls, 1 four, 1 six)
N H Fairbrother c Ashraf Mahmood.....19	(23 balls, 3 fours)
A Flintoff c Shoaib b Saqlain.....50	(51 balls, 2 fours, 4 sixes)

## THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3391 Thursday 8 April

by Spurius

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Content with relatively dull field of study initially (7,6)
  - Willingly accept early indications of emotional support (7)
  - Left tour leader without right foreign currency (7)
  - Vehicle returning from Braemar trip (4)
  - Smoke from motor driven around centre of Vigo (5)
  - Hectare actually defines (4)
  - River with quaintly pleasing effect (7)
  - American writer cross about misrepresentation of hero (7)
  - Takes passing interest in slatted construction (7)
  - Panicles applied to bridge-players for card-playing play (7)
  - Day after runner's slip (4)
  - Monograph, copy entrusted to President (5)
  - Popular chaplain in Scottish island (4)
  - Exotic title - used with care, it will make a difference (7)
  - Wicked dynasty finally eliminated with intervention of a German (7)
  - One can't see the appeal of this party game (5,4,4)
- DOWN**
- Offence caused by abuses in Burma, e.g. (7)
  - Army leader from Dumfriesshire, twinned with Derby, it's said (4)
  - Old garment border is found in church (7)
  - Fighter's tirade, one that's moving (7)
  - Slender container packed with heroin (4)
  - Back runner (not the first) after getting tip? (7)
  - It's useful for cleaning up and down (7,6)
  - Use a stretcher for transporting precious cargo? (4,5)
  - Old writer indisposed to pursue question (5)
  - Money supply contains nothing, it's discovered (5)
  - Characters in stricken firm mostly blue, having difficulty restraining tears (7)
  - Problem about little island's sports arena (7)
  - Blow with more force knocked over feudal slave woman (7)
  - Offends in sport? Show red card (4,2)
  - Soon? A long time ago (4)
  - Ascent no longer led by Conservative member (4)

## Charlton consider home at the Dome

## FOOTBALL

BY PAUL ATTFIELD

CHARLTON ATHLETIC are investigating the possibility of building a new 45,000 all-seater stadium at the nearby Millennium Dome site in Greenwich. The south London club, who are lying 16th in the Premiership, have made The Valley into a 20,000-capacity venue since returning to the ground in 1993 and have plans for further expansion. But their managing director, Peter Varney, says the club is in the early stages of looking into an opportunity to build a brand new stadium and corporate facilities from 2001.

"English Partnership, who are acting for the Millennium Experience company, have asked people who may be in-

terested to register their interest and once you've done that there are various stages to go through," Varney said. "We've discussed the matter internally and we consider that because of the size of the site and the amount of possible grants that may be available and the sheer volume of income that could be generated by a site that size, it's incumbent on

us to at least investigate what the various possibilities are.

"There's no secretive behind-the-scenes deals being done, all that's happened is an interest and to see what the financial effects of any move might be. I think that's what any sound business would do when a site of this size becomes available only half a mile from where the ground is currently located.

"Hopefully we'll stay in the Premiership this year, as happened with clubs like Derby and

Leicester, and we'll be in a position to expand even more.

"We're ambitious, we'd like to see Charlton become one of the top teams in the country and there is the possibility that after the planning application for the north stand, capacity could be restricted to something like 26,000.

"We have a responsibility to look at all the options available. If it's possible to build a 45,000 all-seater stadium only half a mile down the road with all sorts of associated commercial

and retail revenues available to the club, then that's something we must look at."

Charlton followers have a particular attachment to The Valley, forming a political party to fight local elections during the seven-year absence from the ground when the club shared with West Ham and Crystal Palace. Fans also helped raise the £4.6m development costs.

Varney stressed: "There's no imminent move to relocate the club, we're doing what I think is pragmatic, and if and when we wanted to take matters further everyone involved in Charlton, and most importantly the supporters, would be fully involved in any discussions we have."

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AUTHORISED RESELLER

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## Scottish options

Sir: The sentiments expressed in your leader ("The Scots should seek independence", 3 April) are realistic, but demonstrate the lost opportunity for fair and sensible government in Britain.

Of course Scotland, and any other country in the Union, must be allowed to go it alone if a majority of its citizens are unhappy with their lot. But we need never have come to this. The Union is mainly the product of opportunist English imposing a non-federal parliament on their neighbours in 1707.

If only things had been different. Had the Scots been allowed to keep their Parliament the possible dissolution of the United Kingdom would not now be threatened.

Why do our political masters lack the imagination to put things right, ignore the blatant self-interest of the SNP and offer a federal Britain, with assemblies for Scotland, Wales, England, Northern Ireland, and anyone else who wishes to be associated. The interests of all these islands could be represented, major issues such as defence and taxation being entrusted to a federal assembly, replacing the House of Lords.

Crucial and joint interests, such as agriculture and fishing, could be represented with a more powerful voice. This could be a valid alternative to the pound being coerced into shotgun marriage to the euro.

This time, let's get it right. Have self-government, but within a federal structure, allowing Scotland's citizens to continue to play a vital part in British, not just Scottish or English, history.

The total separation of Scotland and England would be a retrograde step, which both nations would soon regret.

JOHN CRAGG  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

## Choices facing Nato

Sir: The peace offer by President Milosevic (report, 7 April) confirms, if confirmation was ever needed, that he has already achieved his political objective, which was to create an ethnically pure state.

If the West does not like the new Serbian state, and wants all refugees to return home, it needs to take two actions: first liberate Kosovo, and then declare it either an independent state or partition it along ethnic lines.

But both of these options are likely to freeze, not resolve, the ethnic conflict - witness how, despite the partition of Bosnia into Croatian, Muslim and Serbian parts, and despite the presence of over 34,000 Nato-led troops, hardly any refugees are returning home. Creating an independent or partitioned Kosovo may be necessary to salvage Nato's credibility, but it would be no incentive for the refugees to return home.

RANDHUR SINGH BAINS  
Gants Hill, Essex

Sir: I am concerned by the amount of space taken up in your letters page by opponents of the Nato action to prevent and reverse the brutal ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Many of these letter writers seem to write from the perspective of the anti-American Left in Britain, who are still locked into Cold War attitudes to America/Nato. Though their views may be genuinely held, they really must realise that the world has moved on and that the Cold War is over.

Military action is over a palatable option, but what is happening in Kosovo cannot be accepted by the civilised nations of the world and is reminiscent of what the Nazis did in Europe in the 1940s. Negotiations were tried but failed and what is necessary now is military action to defeat the Serbs and return the Kosovar refugees to their homes under a UN/Nato protection force, of which Russia should form a part. At a later date the people of Kosovo should determine the future status of their country through a referendum. In the interim period Kosovo should remain a UN/Nato protectorate.

Public opinion polls seem to

indicate that the majority of people in Britain support the Nato intervention and are increasingly beginning to see the need for the use of ground troops. The weakness of the case against intervention made by the anti-American Left, as well as by the isolationist Right, is that they propose no effective alternative.

M OWEN  
London E17

Sir: David Aaronovitch, sick of the "stink of attitudinising", tells us that he is prepared to fight, as if this point should strengthen his argument that British troops should be deployed in a land war in Kosovo ("My country needs me - and the cause is worth fighting for", 6 April).

"What would I myself be prepared to sacrifice in order to stop the massacres and to strike an immense blow against the politics of racial and ethnic nationalism?" he asks.

There are countless painful questions which this present disaster poses but this is not one of them. The key issue is, is it right in the present circumstances to kill and destroy? Soldiers don't get a say, so we must have ours.

I'm sorry that Mr Aaronovitch finds that attitudinising about war stinks. It is, after all, what he does.

DUNCAN BAIN  
Oxford

Sir: Faced with a man-made disaster like Kosovo, I believe I am not alone in feeling angry and impatient. Apart from my lack of political, financial and military power, I am frustrated by a government whose opinion and action I do not necessarily agree with all the time even if I might have voted for it.

And yet, I pay taxes. I vote, I care. There must be something I can do, not just to give relief to misery, but to prevent sufferings.

We boycotted South African products for their apartheid policies. French products for their nuclear experiments in the Pacific. Perhaps this is the time for

consumers, with the help of the Internet, to exercise their power on a global scale for human rights.

Is it not possible for well-established, non-aligned international organisations such as Amnesty International to educate, enlighten and enable consumers who can use their collective power to do something about basic human rights? A register giving oppressive regimes and their commercial interests would allow individuals to boycott products or services and a system can be devised to document their targets and efforts.

JOE BLOGG  
Alton, Hampshire

Sir: It is easy for *The Independent* and its readers to castigate Nato and the politicians for the tragedy in Kosovo. May I suggest the real blame lies nearer home?

Not until now has the public been sufficiently outraged to send in ground forces. Politicians are sensitive to the public mood. To send in the troops to "sort out" Milosevic means casualties. Did any of us care enough about the

Sir: I applaud the nomination of the Forth Rail Bridge, a well-loved, highly regarded, modern industrial structure as a potential World Heritage site (report, 6 April).

Presumably Railtrack will lobby UNESCO to reject this nomination?

If it is accepted the company may no longer be able to avoid providing the bridge with the care it needs to survive intact for the use and admiration of future generations.

KEITH BRAITHWAITE  
London SE13

Sir: The tax and benefit system does not exist to subsidise the inefficiency or excess profits of bad employers (Right of Reply, 6 April).

If a competent employer cannot find £3.60 plus costs and

Albanians, or indeed any of the other people mentioned in Robert Fisk's article ("We have lost this foolish war", 5 April), to risk the lives of "our boys"?

Dr W G L E-LAS  
Canterbury, Kent

Sir: I cannot help but remember that among those who claim to be fighting for human rights and justice in Kosovo is Turkey, which apart from its record in Cyprus, has one of the worst human rights records of any country. Britain, which stood idly by while 37 per cent of Cyprus was ethnically cleansed, and the USA, which gave Turkey the green light to invade Cyprus in 1974.

PAVLOS ANDRONIKOS  
Head, Department of Greek Studies, School of European Languages & Cultures, Monash University, Victoria, Australia

## East Timor violence

Sir: While Europe watches events unfolding in the Balkans with increasing horror, half a world

away, East Timor's life-blood continues to ebb away as it faces up to a fresh wave of violence and killings unleashed by the covert arming and sponsorship of civilian militias by the Indonesian military.

This latest frenzy has been prompted by Indonesia's official indication that it might let East Timor go, whilst unofficially attempting to bludgeon the East Timorese population into voting for continuing integration with Indonesia under an "autonomy" package about to be unveiled.

Exasperated by the passivity of the international community in backing UN efforts to advance the peace process, Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao has called off a ceasefire in response to the massacre by the militias of 17 people in Liquica this week.

The international community must now intervene decisively, and send a peace-keeping force to East Timor.

The pro-integration militias currently intimidating the population must be disarmed immediately, so that meaningful and internationally valid

consultation of East Timorese citizens can take place.

When the genocidal horror of the Indonesian occupation was publicised in the wake of the 1991 Dili massacre, journalists pointed out that Cold War preoccupations had encouraged the West to turn a blind eye to the 1975 invasion of East Timor.

Preoccupation with events closer to home should not mean that we allow history to repeat itself.

P BARBER  
C SCOTT  
British Coalition for East Timor, London E1

Sir: Your report on the continuing tragedy of East Timor ("East Timor moves closer to civil war", 6 April) is a chilling case of *déjà vu*.

East Timor is being pushed by the Indonesians once again in the cynical games that they play.

Prior to the invasion of 1975 there had been a deliberate Indonesian policy of destabilisation and propaganda portraying the East Timorese as communists, having first ensured that the Indonesians alone controlled all news to the outside world by murdering five Australian-based TV men on the border at Balibo. Two were British citizens.

Once the Indonesians had a monopoly of news they were free to present their view that all who opposed them were communist, regardless of the truth.

A civil war was engineered by the Indonesians in much the same way as they are now, in an attempt to present their invasion as being the fireman putting out the fire. In fact they are the fireman throwing petrol on the flames.

Richard Lloyd Parry's article made reference to the 200,000 East Timorese who were murdered subsequent to the first Indonesian invasion.

I truly hope that history will not be repeating itself, but knowing the Indonesian government, I wonder what may be in store.

R L WILLOTT  
Claines, Hereford & Worcester

## IN BRIEF

adequate profit from an hour of an employee's labour, that job is not economically viable. It should be made viable by better management or investment or it should disappear.

We can ignore the crocodile tears of Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, about job losses.

Since when has the IoD cared about poor people?

It is up to the IoD's members to create decent jobs at decent wages instead of whinging about anything that means less time on the golf course.

NORMAN GOALBY  
Montgomery, Powys

Sir: Why do people who profess no belief in a religious allegiance spend so much time and energy thinking, speaking and writing about religion (letters, 6 April)?

They also come out with the same, tired arguments every time: religion is responsible for so much bloodshed, warfare, cruelty.

Actually, human beings, mainly men, are responsible for the evil in the world.

The worst perpetrators of wickedness have usually been atheists. Stalin for example.

True religious belief, as with any other honestly-held, moral point of view, tries to obviate evil, mitigate cruelty, and restore wholeness and integrity to human life.

JOANNA WALLER  
Whitstable, Kent

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Working Poland No 4: People sell odds and ends on the edge of a street market in the Jewish quarter of Krakow

Tom Pilkston

## Parents 'dismayed'

Sir: So teachers are "dismayed, discouraged and disgusted" (letter, 5 April)?

I have to tell teachers that we, the parents of children in state education, are not only fed up with their endless complaining but also dismayed, discouraged and disgusted by their resistance to change.

It is time that they recognised that parents, and their champion David Blunkett, are no longer prepared to accept opposition to the national curriculum, to testing, to literacy and numeracy excellence, and to pay by results.

The job they do is extremely demanding if done well, the pay is not over-generous and their status is relatively low. But their determination to resist change is neither professional nor wise.

JANET JONES  
London NW1

Sir: In Cherry Norton's piece on students ("Stay at home students do worse in life", 1 April) she seems to be implying that because of the imposition of fees, students are being "forced" to live at home and that this will deprive them of getting better-paid jobs.

I live in East Anglia where local students are more likely to leave home. This is not because they have more money but because they do not have as many options as those in the South-east, Scotland and Wales.

Wealthier kids always have had the best chances. That's why a university education for my generation was next to impossible. Universal access to higher education to anyone able to perform at the right level is a long road, but we are on the move as increasing numbers of graduates prove.

My son went to Cambridge. It was nothing to do with our income, which, was in difficulty at the time. He was content to live within his grant and earn any extra he needed.

Because improvement in access to higher education is slow, that is no reason to plead that university education shouldn't be paid for by those who are going to benefit most.

It is quite acceptable to make some charge for an education which enables higher-income earning. The increasing numbers in higher education makes this inevitable.

I believe that making some financial contribution to one's higher education will make students consider much more carefully what they want their future to be, before they go to university.

This will deter those who treat it as a pleasurable, no-cost way of filling time.

BETTY PERRY  
Chelmsford, Essex

## White socks kill

Sir: The basis of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions' Speed Kills campaign is nothing more than an artifact of its own statistics.

By "speeding", the DETR means speed that is merely higher than the posted limit. It claims that speed is a factor in about a third of all collisions. The way it has arrived at this figure is bizarre, however.

If any of the vehicles involved in a road accident was travelling in excess of the posted speed limit immediately prior to the crash, the DETR chalks it up as speed-related.

So if someone runs a red light and clatters another vehicle which is doing 35mph in a 30mph area it is considered a speed-related accident.

This clearly has no meaning in reality. The DETR might as well observe the footwear of drivers involved in collisions, and declare that white socks are a factor in an as yet indeterminate proportion of road accidents.

LANCE K GREEN  
Newport, Gwent

fact that Bryson seemed to love us and have the same sort of humour? Not really. Paul Theroux had the same sort of success, earlier, with a book called *The Kingdom By The Sea*. He went round Britain by train and hated it, and hated almost everyone he met, and said so, but that didn't deter people from buying the book and loving grumpy old Paul Theroux. They just loved to read about themselves.

Wait. This masterclass was going to teach me how to turn my summer holiday into a best-seller. How will all this help me?

It won't. You'll have to wait until tomorrow for the second half...

You mean, this is a cynical ploy to get me to shell out more money for this newspaper?

Yes.

Fair enough.

## Turn two weeks in Bournemouth into a six-figure advance

ALMOST EVERYONE dreams of writing a best-seller, and it must often seem that the easiest kind of best-seller to write is a travel book. So today, as the summer holidays loom, I am bringing you a master-class in the art of writing a travel book, to help you bring back a masterpiece from your hols.

## What is a travel book?

A travel book is, in essence, a way of setting your holiday expenses against tax.

Should you fix up a contract with a publisher before you go on your travels? Should you maybe even write the book before you go?

Not necessarily. There are two main kinds of travel book. One is the kind which comes after you have had an interesting experience, which then prompts you to write a

book. The other kind happens when you promise a publisher to write a book before you go off and have the interesting experience.

Is it possible to write a travel book without leaving home?

Oh, yes. Marco Polo is now thought never to have gone to China, despite which his book on China is the most famous book about China ever written. Daniel Defoe never got wrecked on a desert island, despite which his book on Robinson Crusoe is one of the most famous of all time.

Is Robinson Crusoe a travel book? After all, he never moves from his island so he doesn't strictly speaking, travel at all.

Perhaps you're right. Perhaps it is, strictly speaking, a hostage book, a forerunner of all those Terry Waite books in which nobody

goes anywhere and nothing much happens. More like a Harold Pinter play, really.

What happens if you promise a publisher a book full of interesting experiences, take his advance and go abroad and spend it, then don't have interesting experiences?

You come back and make them all up.

Perhaps I shouldn't mention this, but in *Nicholas Shakespeare's new life of Bruce Chatwin* there seems to be more than a suggestion that Chatwin lived a life of fantasy.

Which is precisely what made him such a good travel writer. Have you noticed, for instance, that all travel books are full of reported conversations? You don't honestly think do you, that the writer could remember all those conversations?



MILES KINGTON

Should you fix up a contract before you go? Should you even write the book before you go?

Travel-writers are like novelists - they create characters and dialogue out of sketchy notes.

Isn't that a bit like improving on reality?

Yes, and a good thing too. One of the reasons that travel writers are more interesting than TV travel programmes is that a travel-writer can improve on poor old real life. You can't do that on TV any more, otherwise you will be accused of faking. Everyone in TV knows that the faked bits are always the best, that's why travel TV is so dull. People like Peter Ustinov can fake their chat in books or in anecdotes, but they don't fake their chat when travelling on TV, which is why it is so dreadful.

You're not suggesting that people like Michael Palin write better travel books than the TV programmes they make?

Michael Palin doesn't write travel books. He writes "books that go

with the TV programme". That's something quite different.

All right - you're not suggesting that a writer like Bill Bryson makes things up, are you?

He is different, too. Don't forget that there are two kinds of travel-writers: those who set out with a gimmick and those who don't. By gimmick writers I mean those who set out on motorbike, or llama, or bicycle, or carrying a fridge round Ireland, and then record the scrapes they have deliberately got into.

But Bill Bryson doesn't have a gimmick.

Yes he does. He is an American. He is an American who bothered to write a book about England. We were so immensely flattered that any American should bother to do this that we fell in love with him.

Wasn't it partly to do with the

fact that Bryson seemed to love us and have the same sort of humour?

Not really. Paul Theroux had the same sort of success, earlier, with a book called *The Kingdom By The Sea*. He went round Britain by train and hated it, and hated almost everyone he met, and said so, but that didn't deter people from buying the book and loving grumpy old Paul Theroux. They just loved to read about themselves.

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Yes.

Fair enough.







## PANDORA

**TWITCHERS BEWARE:** It's time to tag your feathered friend with a microchip, according to the new issue of *Pet Product Marketing*. It reports that a gang of villains has been hitting pet shops in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Norfolk – the crew specialises in stealing exotic birds. During the past year, it has bagged a haul of 70, valued at around £100,000. A £700 African Grey (pictured) is the latest to be forcibly migrated. According to ornithological security expert John Hayward, the bird-bandits swoop on top-priced specimens, leaving lesser breeds in their cages. It sounds like an inside job by some fly guys.

**OH NO, say it ain't so:** Monica Lewinsky is now threatening to move to London because here she "gets respect and privacy". What have we done to deserve this?

**FLESH-EATING viruses,** explosions, lesbian tongue hockey, ruffie rape, incest, smack murders, bodies under patios... Brookside supremo Phil Redmond and his writers have vivid imaginations. But when it comes to troubled teen-soap *Hollyoaks* (a bit of a problem child for Redmond's Mersey Television since its heavily hyped launch four years ago), there only seems one plot-twist: road-kill. There have been three disastrous vehicle accidents in as many years; in *Brookside* characters are always crashing in the same bar – in *Hollyoaks* they're always just crashing. Redmond is supposedly keen to ease his foot off the gas at *Brookside* and get in the driving seat at *Hollyoaks*. C4 suits are banking on the attitudinal scouser not falling asleep at the wheel.

**PANDORA'S Life of Don Johnson.** The former Mr Melanie Griffiths recently invited a West Coast showbiz reporter into his lovely psyche. In the *LA Times*, Paul Brownfield describes their time together as "mostly a

**misguided tour of machismo and implied debauchery.** He picks up a blonde at a bar; he peels off two \$100 bills for a homeless man..." Although Johnson's battle with the bottle is well documented, Brownfield says "in the past three hours he's gone through several bottles of wine, but not much in the way of solid food". Pausing only to urinate into San Francisco Bay, the volatile star of *Nash Bridges* and *Miami Vice* describes how he bedded *Nash Bridges* female guest stars in his "bus-like trailer" on the set – crew members called it "riding the bus". It's been 10 years since Johnson gave an interview; enquiring minds wonder why.

**OH, AND did you notice the** juxtaposition of the initials of Victoria (Adams) and David (Beckham) on the bogus crest heading up the couple's wedding invitation?

**ONE MONTH to go until the** Scottish and Welsh elections, and the pressure is starting to tell. The Scottish Conservative Party sent out a special pack to schools, in which it tries to reconcile its previous opposition to devolution with its current campaign for electoral success in the assembly. "To the uninformed observer, these standpoints may seem incompatible," says Scottish Tory leader David McLetchie. "That's an entirely understandable reaction." In the spirit of listening to the electorate's kitchen table (or whatever this week's draft initiative is supposed to be), will the Tories be similarly sympathetic when no one votes for them?

**BT HAS signed up** Stephen Spielberg's BT to persuade us to "stay in touch" by phone. The ugly alien will be coming to a commercial break near you in a series of teasers from 11 April, culminating in a "movie-style" 60-second commercial next month. Perhaps BT should stay in closer touch with AT&T, its putative bedmate in the lucrative US market – the telecom giant hasn't been paying its phone bills. Apparently, AT&T and former BT partner MCI both owe the Cuban national phone company a substantial sum, so substantial that the Cubans are threatening to cut all American phone lines to the island.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## I urge you all to shop randomly



DAVID LISTER

*Can the day be far away when every supermarket has its own loyalty-card therapist?*

IN ONE of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* monologues, the narrator describes a counselling session in which one of the characters confesses to exposing himself in a Sainsbury's doorway. As the narrator's shocked mother remarks: "Tesco, you could understand."

Where we shop has always been a guide to which social class we inhabit. But now there is to be a potentially Orwellian refinement. Now the stores are to create their own internal class system, ranking shoppers according to how much they spend. This they can do thanks to those ubiquitous loyalty cards. There are now more than 40 million of these in circulation. They ostensibly give shoppers discounts for being frequent trolley-pushers, but have a more sinister purpose.

Tesco is reported to be looking at creating a three-tiered class system. The biggest rewards, which might include special deals on foreign holidays, would go to families that buy large amounts regularly, with lesser spenders getting proportionally smaller benefits.

Personally, I'd be lucky to get a

candy-floss in Southend. I will have nothing to do with loyalty cards. This is not because I am capricious in my shopping habits, but because I am a democrat. Loyalty cards look like a good deal and certainly tell us a good deal about the philosophies of the supermarket chains. Tesco, for example, is an unsentimental, unreconstructed monetarist. The

Tesco loyalist receives money-off vouchers. Sainsbury's is the "new man" among supermarket giants: its benefits in kind include an annual crèche pass. Sainsbury's Air Miles offer encourages you to go away and make babies, rather than put them in a crèche.

At least that was a system free of political and psychological overtones. The new customer "class" system being considered by Tesco could end up with supermarkets resembling opera houses. There might be a plush checkout where the designer-label, high-spending shoppers could chat with their own kind, while the one-basket, basic-toiletries-and-marked-down-poultry baskets could enter and leave via a separate entrance.

The psychological implications are equally disturbing. Sainsbury's is now testing palm-top computers designed to check the cardholder's shopping history before making "tailored" special offers available to the shopper.

Until this moment, I was not aware that I had a "shopping history". I thought I just bought

things. But if you have a shopping history, the shopping analyst cannot be far behind. Can the day be far away when every supermarket has a loyalty-card therapist, and a special room behind the toiletries-and-household-cleaning aisle where your shopping history can be analysed?

"The switch you made last March from fresh to dried pasta: I can't help but notice it was around the time you changed from luxury soft toilet-rolls to our special-offer basic packs," the analyst will say.

"And the avocados disappeared altogether. Was it just a financial crisis, or was it a more profound loss of enthusiasm for the good things in life? I see the chocolate consumption has more than doubled. How have you and your partner been getting on recently?"

It may or may not be that we are what we eat. But for sure we are what we shop. Every aisle tells a story, every trolley contains a human struggle. Months of eschewing French apples, followed by a splurge on special-offer Golden Delicious, is but the outer symbol of

the defeat of an environmental campaigner. Sainsbury's palm-top computer will surely bleep when it notices a shopper who is losing their political consciousness.

And Big Brother in the storeroom will programme the poor lost soul's name into a database to send to dubious political and commercial organisations. The new, computerised, class-graded loyalty cards are a subtle totalitarian tool. But there is one way to defeat them.

Shop with no consistency, no game plan, no consumerist ideology. Flit from supermarket to supermarket. One week, put as many E-numbers into your trolley as it can hold. Then the next week, only go to the organic shelves. Never spend the same amount two weeks running. Intersperse strict vegetarianism with carnivorous blow-outs and the Chablis with the Liebfraumilch.

Then watch the steam come out of the palm-top computer and see the store manager – in the manner of a failed Ian Fleming Smersh operative – click his heels and bury his head in the frozen turkeys.

## Its first 100 days were rocky, but the euro's in rude health



DIANE COYLE

*The pro-pounders are in the main elderly men with more stake in their past than in our future*

COULD THERE have been a more turbulent first 100 days for the euro? The period since its euphoric launch amid Beethoven and balloons on New Year's Day started with a damaging public row over interest rates between the brash German finance minister and the dull Dutch banker running the new European Central Bank. It moved on to the resignation of said finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, then the entire European Commission, washed out of office on a tide of sleaze. And just three months after the single currency's birth, war started on the eastern border of Euroland.

No wonder Britain's save-the-pounders are feeling so chipper. The new currency has been declining pretty steadily on the foreign exchanges, and has lost 5 per cent of its value against the pound. But the motley collection of assorted Lords and Rupert Murdoch-employees gleeful at all this extra ammunition for their campaign against Britain joining the euro are guilty of bending the facts and trivialising the national debate we ought to be having.

Start with that decline in the value of the euro on the foreign exchanges. It is tiny, as currency movements go. In just eight weeks last summer the pound fell more than 7 per cent against other currencies, and is still 4 per cent below the level it reached in August. During that entire period of decline British industrialists – the anti-euro camp more vociferously than most – continued to complain about the strength of the pound.

And they are still complaining. They acclaim the euro's weakness as a sign of the innate weaknesses of the Continental economy. At the same time, they grumble that its fall is undermining the ability of British business to sell profitably into European markets. These people want to have their brioche and eat it too.

Nor do they speak for the full breadth of British business. A poll conducted by ICM for Business for Sterling, which supposedly showed a 59 per cent majority against UK membership of the euro, turned out to have adjusted the replies in a way which – surprise, surprise – turned a raw pro-euro majority into a "weighted" majority for the anti-euro camp. This is an odd approach to campaigning – rigging the result to show that you have already achieved the victory over public opinion you are supposed to be aiming for. The truth is that British business, like the British people, is split on the subject, probably mildly sceptical on balance but open to discussion. What a pity they have been so ill-served by politicians and commentators.

It has not helped elevate the level of debate that all the running has been made by the anti-euro groups like Business for Sterling and Lord Owen's New Europe. These outfits, funded by privately wealthy men and, in the case of New Europe, Mr Murdoch, have more money than the Britain in Eu-

rope coalition on the opposite side. The pro-euro campaign has also remained too low-key, postponing its formal launch until Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine can swing their weight behind it after the European elections.

The delay will turn out to have been a mistake, and not just because it will allow the anti-euro groups to set the terms of the debate. For the main distinction between the two camps is the narrowness of interests represented by the anti-euro compared to the diversity of those who remain open to the idea of Britain playing a central role in Europe.

The defenders of sterling are, in the main, a group of elderly men with more stake in their past than in our future. They clothe their gut anti-Europeanism and Little Englandism in the language of rational economic argument. Many actually believe Britain ought to withdraw from the EU altogether, but have just enough nous to realise this is not a referendum winner.

Among younger people who are not part of the Establishment, there is a good deal of pro-European sentiment. Few people born in the baby-boom generation or later are purely nationalistic. We have travelled abroad for holidays and business, not just to fight other Europeans. In our millions we have enjoyed the beaches of the Costa Brava and the hills of Tuscany, watched football in France, been skiing in the Alps, held meetings with colleagues in Frankfurt, and danced in Dublin's nightclubs. While we still laugh at jokes about German holidaymakers and Italian drivers, it is no longer a bitter humour.

For all those whose instincts are to be part of Europe, not separate from it, there are many clear signals that staying out of the single currency has already undermined Britain's influence. To take just the latest, in his interview with the



A protestor outside the Bank of England. Louise Butler/AP

*Financial Times* this week, Romano Prodi, the President-designate of the European Commission, was describing how he came to be appointed. Jacques Chirac, the French President, rang him up to tell him what Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, wanted. The British Prime Minister didn't merit a passing mention.

There is a serious economic argument to be held about the pros and cons of Britain joining the euro. The arguments in favour concern the creation of a genuine, competitive single market, and whether British companies can afford to be on the outside, victims of a volatile exchange rate.

The arguments against concern the limits membership would set to macroeconomic management, and how damaging it might be to lose the ability to set interest rates for the UK alone. Although European interest rates are already well below UK rates, the pro-euro case is not helped by the tardiness of the European Central Bank in taking

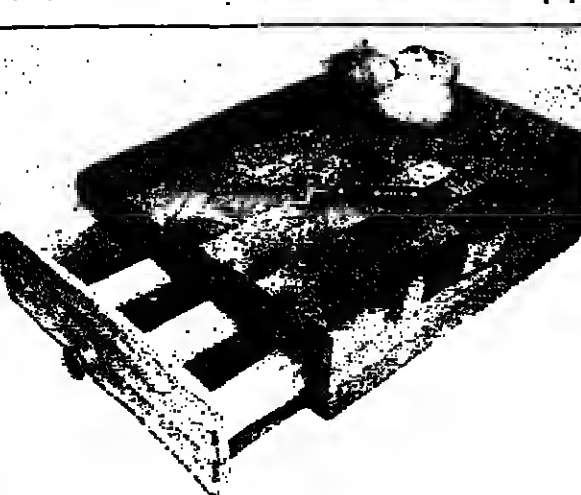
more action to help boost growth at a time of global crisis. It might still do so after its meeting today, which would make the cost of borrowing on the Continent half that in the UK.

Nor is the case for joining helped by the reluctance of most Continental politicians to introduce fundamental reforms that would help their economies work better. But British politicians are not going to persuade them to do so by tecturing in a superior way from the outside – Tony Blair's recent speech to European socialists on his Anglo-Saxon vision of a modern and competitive economy won't convert them. He simply is not seriously engaged in their overwhelming political project, unless and until he takes the UK into the single currency.

A rocky first 100 days have not sown a single seed of doubt about the euro in Euroland. It should not mislead anybody in Britain either. The euro is here, and the longer the UK stays out the further away from us the Continent will drift.

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## An exciting time to do business in



PODIUM

BILL GATES  
From the inaugural lecture of the London Business School given by the CEO of Microsoft Corporation

This is a great time to be in the world of business. Business will change more in the next 10 years than it has in the last 50. The way that people find and match buyers and sellers will be radically different. That is the fundamental mechanism of capitalism and the Internet is bringing a new level of efficiency to it.

The way that information flows inside a company will be different. In the past, employees had to work with very little information. They had a creative idea about how to change the product or price it in a new way but they really did not have the foundation to recommend that things be changed.

With digital advances, the cost of doing this the right way and empowering those people has now become very small. Most companies are already investing in the infrastructure that is required. They are buying PCs, they are connecting them in a network and they have got connections out to the Internet.

I have had business leaders come to me and ask what they should do to adapt to this new age. In some ways they view it

as an opportunity. They know that they can improve the decision processes; they know that the way that they have bought and sold things can be far more effective.

Business leaders are also afraid, because they see new companies being started up that take the Internet as a given. It is really important to give these leaders a metric to say how much they are achieving here: a simple metric like saying that an employee can sit down at a screen and find any memo written in the past that might relate to their current project.

Business is all about empowering people, getting more out of their thinking, and it requires a new approach to do that. You can ask yourself, as a CEO, have you taken all the paper forms in the company and decreed that they should all go away?

People were stunned when I said that two years ago because they thought: "We have created all these nice forms and that is the way we are used to doing business."

In fact, the systems that we have replaced the paper with are a lot better; in fact, they are



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subject to constant feedback. Everything we have, you can send us comments on and tell us how it could be improved for you personally or how it needs to adjust to new business conditions. There is a lot of velocity here, a need to respond to dynamic markets in a better way, a need to have what I call "better business reflexes."

Overall, an organisation requires leadership from the top. Even though a typical CEO will

have grown up in an age in which there were personal computers, it was not the CEO who was supposed to learn how to type. But CEOs have got to show that they are willing to dive in.

If we think about it, at a meeting like this one in three or four years from now, everyone will have a tablet PC and will be taking notes on it so that you do not have a mismatch between what you do on paper and on the computer.

The term "PC" will probably be reserved for the full screen device where you create documents and edit them, whether it is at home or in the workplace. You will certainly have a device that has phone-like functionality that is smaller, that fits into the pocket, and not only connects up for voice but also digital wireless.

You will have something in your car that you can just talk to and ask for a radio station or for directions. It will be up-to-date in terms of what the traffic conditions are and connected with all your other devices. You will not have to be involved with moving information between them. If you get somebody's phone number and put

that on your small device, it will show up automatically on your PC and your auto PC without any overhead at all. It will also have the TV connected up to a high speed, two-way network using the cable or phone infrastructure so that getting e-mail or playing multi-player games will all be very natural.

If you are watching a sports show, you will be able to look at your buddy list and see if any of your friends are watching the same thing; if so, you will be able to open up a voice conversation and talk with them as simply as if you were watching together. There will be a lot of variety but we will all be connected up to the same network, all sharing the same information.

This is a pretty exciting time to be in business. It will not necessarily be the leaders of the past who are the leaders in the future. The jobs will not be the same as they have been. There is no doubt in my mind that the successful companies will be the ones that really grab these tools. I think that is an exciting opportunity and certainly something I think we will all have fun making a reality.







# Shirley Bury

IT IS the heaviest printed book I have ever held. It weighs in at 32lb, fills 1,380 pages, is quarter-bound in red goatskin by Cedric Chivers, set in Caslon, designed by Guy Miles Warren, edited by Shirley Bury's great friend Claude Blair, half of it written by Bury herself, and published by the Stationery Office at £1,000 per copy.

Bury spent the last eight years of her life concentrating on this great task, often staying up till five in the morning, such was her obsession with the obscure, fascinating details of royal anatomy and royal meanness.

*The Crown Jewels* (1998) is the first catalogue of this fabulous collection in nearly a thousand years of history and legend. Bury checked every source she used – there was never anything second-hand or derivative in her scholarly writings – so, characteristically, she wrote too much and took too long. Like many scholars, she could not always see the wood for the trees, but her trees were so dense and interesting that her editors usually gave up in despair and allowed her a few dozen more pages than had been offered.

Here, she spices her accounts of the coronation ceremonies. Charles II showed what she pitifully calls his "nicely judged balance of conciliation and reward" when he created six new earls and six barons. We meet Pepys in Westminster Abbey getting "up into a great scaffold" from which he noted scurvy everywhere. "All the officers of all kinds, so much as the very fiddlers, in red vests."

Bury tells of how the royal goldsmith, Robert Vyner, was bankrupted by the King, who never paid properly for his extravagant new regalia, but as a royal servant he was immune from arrest for debt. We wonder with Bury what really happened to the elderly royal regalia when it was "destroyed" under the Republic of Oliver Cromwell. Much later, King William IV, unlike Charles II, wanted to economise for his coronation, so existing furniture was reused with an artistic result defined by Bury as "horrid eclecticism". She successfully negotiates the

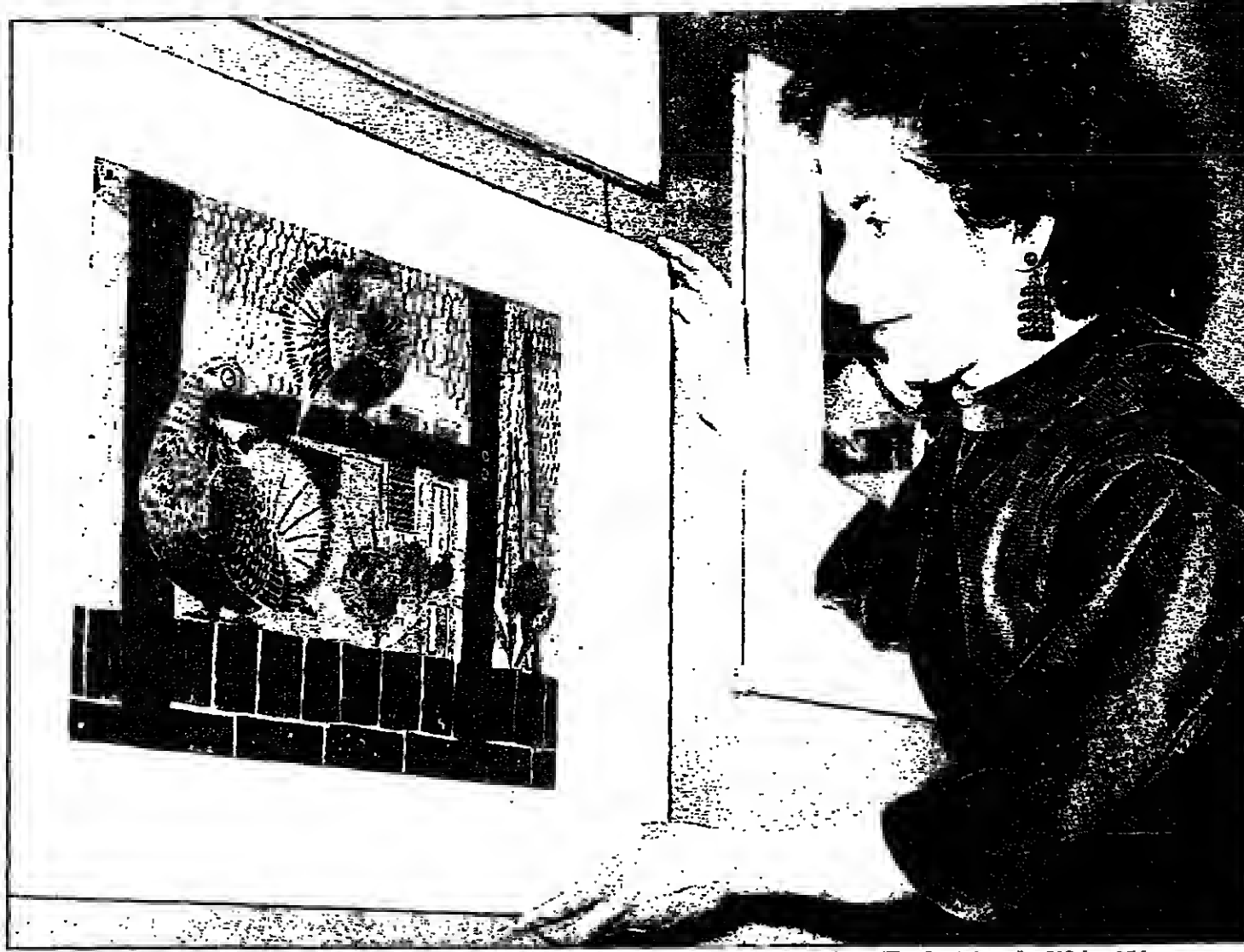
minefield of who owned who in the period of the Regency, with the eminent goldsmith merchants Paul Storr, Rundell Bridge and Rundell, Hunt and Roskell, all of them making money as well as or better than they made gold. Much later again, we meet King George V who complained of the discomfort of his crown, but nevertheless insisted on wearing it more often than his predecessors. For our own Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, Bury turns to Pepys's successor as gossip extra-

*She devoted her whole working life – night and day – to the Victoria and Albert Museum*

ordinary. Chips Channon wrote, "I could have watched it for ever." That is how Bury's friends felt about her.

She usually wrote very formal prose, but in this exceptional book she let her hair down and revealed often concealed insights into human nature. Her achievement has not received due credit.

"All researchers have their occasional moments of illumination when a single additional fact begins to make sense of a body of information patiently amassed over a long period." So she wrote in the 1983 *Album of the Victoria and Albert Museum*, to which institution she devoted her whole working life – night and day – from 1948 to 1972. These words may not be so pithy as Pepys, but they might serve as Bury's epitaph. The academic windfall was a Victorian silver teaset of 1851 by Joseph Angell just acquired by the V&A, long known in documents, but



Bury applying finishing touches to an 'International Exhibition of Contemporary Colour Woodcuts' at the V&A, 1954

only now, thanks to Shirley Bury, properly evaluated.

Bury was born in 1925, read Fine Art at Reading University, and soon afterwards joined the Circulation Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum (which was responsible for travelling exhibitions). In 1960 she completed an MA on the silver trade up to the Industrial Revolution, and the next year became senior research assistant and assistant keeper in the library the year after that.

I first worked with her in the 1961 international artists' jewellery exhibition which I organised at Goldsmiths' Hall. I sensed that her heart did not lie in modern art, despite her love for her eminent modern painter husband, Morley Bury. But she was always wanted to help, and was eager to learn too. She taught me about the precursors of 20th-century design, like Pugin and Henry Cole.

She loved Pugin at a time when almost everyone else thought him

trivial: in the 1960 V&A Yearbook, she records his hatred of half-pearls, and his generally hysterical attitudes about ornamental detail. Bury discovered that he had written about a tiny part of a tiny brooch: "I wonder you defend the Brooch. I think the half-pearls execrable. I won't have it, it is too horrid. . . it is a regular Houndsditch affair." (Houndsditch being the workplace for many cheap merchants, then as now.)

In 1967, Bury organised 'Copy or Creation' with me at Goldsmiths' Hall, investigating the nature of Victorian church treasures, and I realised what an able sleuth she was; she discovered how everything copied something else, but that these copies were so full of doctrinal passion that they were creations in their own right. The following year she moved to the metalwork department, becoming deputy keeper in 1972.

She began to use words of such sophistication that I read her with

a new awe. For instance, she called Ramsden and Carr, the British silversmiths of the 1820s, "those able epigones". But by 1985 she was using everyday language again, perhaps because, now promoted to Keeper, she had to master the arts of communication. In an elegant V&A booklet on jewels, she dragged in Congreve's agreeable Tattle from *Love for Love*, flourishing his "letters, lockets, pictures and rings" as proof of his sexual conquests.

Bury now preferred jewels to silver, and realised that jewels, though they are art, are also human nature: in another V&A booklet on rings, she records a Roman peacock of the first century AD who wore six rings on each of his hands, night and day.

Bury's most beautiful monument may be the superb jewellery gallery at the V&A, with her fine guide through the centuries. Her most complete achievement is perhaps her big two-volume book *Jewellery*

1789-1910, published in 1991, after she found a new self-discipline, and bravely reduced her initial 27 chapters to a more digestible 17, and jettisoned some 80,000 words.

Her best-kept secret was her love of her family, which she organised from its centre like Ruth and Naomi in the Bible. A friend once likened her to Dorothea in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, always an inflexible for good, always showing confidence and faith in everyone. There are very few historians of metalwork and they nearly all know each other. Shirley Bury, with her accuracy and her generosity, was an example to them all.

GRAM HUGHES

Shirley Joan Watkin, art historian: born London 27 February 1925; Deputy Keeper, Department of Metalwork, Victoria and Albert Museum 1972-82; Keeper 1982-85; married 1947 Morley Bury (one son); died London 25 March 1999.

## Jumabek Ibraimov

JUMABEK IBRAIMOV's rule as Kyrgyzstan's prime minister was brief. Already ailing when appointed to the post by President Askar Akayev on 25 December last year, Ibraimov had to withdraw from day-to-day work two months later for an operation in Moscow for stomach cancer. He tried to return to work in late March – when government officials said he was healed – but soon succumbed.

In Kyrgyzstan, a small mountainous republic of what used to be the Soviet Union's empire in Central Asia, founded by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China, politics most resembles a revolving door, with a small élite constantly reshuffled at the president's whim.

Before becoming prime minister, Ibraimov had held a number of senior posts. He was appointed mayor of the capital, Bishkek, in January 1993, and from January 1995 he was State Secretary to President Akayev, effectively his chief of staff. In March 1996 he was named an adviser on economics to the president and his Plenipotentiary Representative to the People's Assembly, the upper house of parliament.

Failing health caused Ibraimov to take a year off from public life, but he returned in December 1997 as Chairman of the State Property Fund, a job that carried the rank of minister. As growing incompetence and corruption enveloped the government at the end of last year, Akayev sacked the whole team, bringing in Ibraimov to clean up. Akayev compared his new prime minister to the Russian incumbent, Yevgeny Primakov, who was a personal friend of Ibraimov.

As prime minister, Ibraimov tried to bring in new mechanisms for preventing corruption and promoting further privatisation to boost the sagging economy which had been hard hit by last August's financial crash in Russia. But Ibraimov was not in office long enough to have much of an impact.

Born into a peasant family in Kemino district of Kyrgyzstan's northern Chui Region, Ibraimov was trained as an engineer. In 1960, after completing secondary school, he started work as an apprentice locksmith in a factory in the capital, then called Frunze. In 1963 he entered Frunze Polytechnic Institute, though his studies were interrupted for army service in the airborne troops, based near the Russian town of Tula.

From August 1971 he took further postgraduate studies, then worked as a lecturer in the machine-building faculty of Frunze Polytechnic Institute. In 1976 he took a special course at the Machine-Tool Construction Institute in Moscow. He worked in a Frunze agricultural machine factory before moving to a factory in Rybachy in north-eastern Kyrgyzstan in January 1977 of which he later became director.

In 1985 he transferred to Communist Party work. That December he was appointed as First Secretary of the party in Rybachy. In January 1988 he moved into the senior ranks of the Kyrgyzstan party when he became First Deputy Head of the Department of Organisational Party Activity of the Central Committee. In March 1991 he became Second Secretary of the party in Chui region.

In November 1991, just when the Soviet Union was on the brink of disintegration, Ibraimov was appointed deputy chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

Like many Communist officials he turned to business in the post-Soviet era, becoming director of the Janash joint-stock company in 1992. He was later chairman of the board of the Kyrgyz national airline. However, he remained in politics, being twice elected to parliament.

FELIX CORLEY

Jumabek Ibraimovich Ibraimov, politician: born Jany-Aylak, Soviet Union 1 January 1944; married (four children); died Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 4 April 1999.

## Charlie Martin

*'I don't know why you've come all this way to talk about pulsed power. You've got the father of pulsed power over there'*



CHARLIE MARTIN was a nuclear weapon designer whose reputation stood as high in the three United States nuclear weapon laboratories as at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston, where he spent his career. Most of that career was devoted to pulsed power, an enabling technology crucial to weapon design and demonstration, and more recently to verifying the integrity of the atomic arsenal.

A British visitor to the Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico, where the American nuclear weapon designs are engineered into warheads, was told authoritatively in the mid-1980s: "I don't know why you've come all this way to talk about pulsed power. You've got the father of pulsed power over there."

When reported, this remark stimulated the founding of the UK Pulsed Power Club in 1986. At its inaugural meeting at the Culham Laboratory of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, UK pre-eminence in the technology was traced back to the Second World War and the post-war activities of a small group at Aldermaston led by Charlie Martin.

Martin himself told this meeting how, later, the US had come to dominate the technology because its practitioners talked freely about their problems, even when working for rival firms. "Their bosses hate it," His experience – he was a consul-

tant to Sandia as well as an employee of the Ministry of Defence – was that every bit of help he gave US experts was repaid tenfold. His message for the new club was: "Co-operate – even when it hurts you a bit."

He made what must be one of the most open invitations Aldermaston has ever extended to the US: "Please come and talk to us." This was pursued enthusiastically by those seeking help for the US Government's Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars").

Pulsed power is the technology of storing electricity and releasing it suddenly as "thunderbolts" of enormous voltage and current, like lightning strikes. Such pulses are used to drive high-energy physics experi-

ments, to power laser and other potential beam weapons, and to test the tolerance of complex electrical systems to lightning strikes, for example.

Nuclear weapon designers need pulsed power to provide the energy for flash radiography, whereby they can photograph inside a warhead and verify the way its 2,000 parts have been assembled. It has also been needed increasingly to verify the integrity of the nuclear stockpile since atomic testing was abandoned.

Martin, recounting his Aldermaston years to the Pulsed Power Club in 1995, told how in the early 1950s he heard that Aldermaston had been offered a linear accelerator "for free" but was minded to turn the offer down. At the time his way

lay elsewhere, on designing the plutonium initiator for the first UK atom bomb. He moved on to the intrinsic safety of the design – how the bomb would behave in a fire or if dropped inadvertently, for example. Testing was done in the Australian desert at Maralinga.

But young Martin had the foresight to see how valuable the linear accelerator machine could be to weapon designers, and argued his case successfully with Sir William Cook, Aldermaston's director.

A few years later, as a member of the Warhead Hydrodynamics Division, he was given responsibility for the "relatively unloved and understaffed" machine. It became the nucleus of his pulsed power team, and the precursor of a series of big machines delivering increasingly powerful bolts of energy.

The latest, Mogul E, built in the 1990s, is claimed to be the world's most powerful flash radiography machine. Perhaps more significantly, Martin's team soon acquired a reputation for building its machines for a fraction of their equivalents in the US atomic weapons industry.

In 1995 Martin estimated that his team had spent about £3m at present-day value, over 22 years, on pulsed power. It had helped pioneer a field of technology in which about 5,000 people were engaged. He also believed pulsed power had con-

tributed to maintaining the balance of deterrence during a vital period.

At Christmas 1994 the pulsed power team presented Aldermaston's director Peter Jones, a former chief warhead designer, with a highly classified Christmas card. The photograph showed the innards of a full-scale atomic warhead on the point of exploding.

Martin was never an easily manageable scientist. He would tell visitors his laboratory was out on the boundary of the sprawling Aldermaston campus: "as far as possible from the administrators". One of his bosses in the 1980s says: "The best way to manage Charlie was to let him get on with it." Another, more recently, that "Charlie had the fastest brain I ever came across".

Martin was appointed a Deputy Chief Scientific Officer on special merit in 1974. In 1977 the US Government awarded him its Defence Nuclear Agency Gold Medal, an award made only rarely to non-US citizens, of which he was specially proud. He was appointed CBE in 1989, accepting it as an honour for his team.

Martin was a Londoner who read Physics at Imperial College. He never married but lived in one room at Boundary Hall, Aldermaston, during the normal working week, and in London at weekends. When he began semi-retirement at 65 he settled in Bloomsbury, close to his favourite theatres, cinemas, restaurants and bookshops. But his wide circle of friends knew that Aldermaston took first place, until he became ill.

He was famous at Aldermaston for a gargantuan appetite. He would often eat two cafeteria dinners in the time others took to eat one. One of his principal recreations was dining with friends, but he never recovered his zest for it after an operation a year ago, for cancer of the oesophagus. He inspired great love and affection in countless friends, from his cleaner at Boundary Hall to Edward Teller, foremost US weapon designer, who called him his "scientific son".

Charlie Martin's careful handling of public monies – his "string-and-sealing-wax" approach to experimentation – was reflected in his personal life. Although generous to friends he had little interest in personal possessions, including clothes, which he tended to buy in bulk. He holidayed in the eastern Mediterranean – Greece, Turkey, Egypt – usually combining snorkelling with study of their archaeological treasures.

DAVID FISHLOCK

John Christopher (Charlie) Martin, nuclear weapon designer: born London 21 September 1926; Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority 1974-86; CBE 1989; died London 22 March 1999.

## Major Donald Henderson

MEN SUCH as Donald Henderson are always rightly referred to as bomb disposal experts – they have to be expert if they are to survive.

The profession is relatively new. In the Great War bombs were fairly simple and most exploded on impact; it was not until the Second World War that the race began between experts in delayed action fuses. The Admiralty eschewed the phrase as long as possible; in 1940 and 1941, mines were rendered safe and RMS (Rendering Mines Safe) officers only gradually turned to bombs; disposal of the arisings was assumed. By the time that Henderson emerged with the post-war members of his trade, Nato was grappling with its linguistics, and "unexploded ordnance disposal" became the order of the day.

Henderson was awarded the George Medal for his disarming of

the Marsham Street bomb in 1975, placed outside Lockett's Restaurant in Westminster where several MPs were dining. He disarmed the bomb, consisting of 25lb of explosive accommodating several pounds of coach bolts, with less than four minutes to spare (though he did not know how much time he had).

Henderson perhaps deserved a higher honour: he was congratulated by the judge at the trial of the terrorist group known as the Balcombe Street Gang; there had also been the Christmas of 1974, during which season of peace and goodwill he was called to 72 incidents in eight days. And in 1971 he had dealt with a bomb secured beneath Lady Beaverbrook's car, where it had been intended to explode as the heating-up exhaust pipe fired a simple charge.

He survived not one but two hectic careers and then enjoyed 20

years of retirement, albeit often interrupted when his advice was needed. He was born in 1921 into an army family stationed at Dover, where he went to the local grammar school. In 1937 he joined the Territorial Army, serving in the Royal Engineers throughout the war from 1939 to 1945, finally in Burma and then in occupied Germany. It was then that he specialised in the techniques of ammunition and was commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps; his skills took him to troublesome places like Aden, Cyprus and Korea.

At home his increasing experience of the criminal use of explosives in safe blowing commended him to the police; his accumulation and presentation of evidence was of great importance in securing several convictions, and it was suggested that after 17 years in the post-war Army,

he might consider moving "to the aid of the civil power". Accordingly he resigned his commission in 1964 and, with a contemporary, Major Geoffrey Biddle, became a civil servant, Head of the new C712 Branch of the Metropolitan Police, one of its most enlightened and successful appointments. There he was to serve for another 17 years. Biddle was also to receive the George Medal, for defusing a bomb beneath the ministerial car of another ex-serviceman, Edward Heath.

Henderson's increasing technical knowledge and its skilled application were much in demand. He was a regular lecturer to the American FBI and to sundry elements in the Ministry of Defence and other government departments; he supervised the security cover of the wedding of the Prince of Wales.

He was a quiet, reserved man, of

only faintly military bearing despite his clipped moustache and properly polished shoes. In plain clothes, civilian raincoat and with a worn but treasured briefcase, the man who spent much time verifying references in the *London Gazette* in the Public Record Office at Kew appeared to be just another researcher.

But his experiences sustained several books, including one on the honours and awards of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. There was a general history of the GM, *Dragons Can Be Defeated: a complete record of the George Medal's progress 1940-1983* (1984), and a realistic novel, *Bomb Two* (1983), on the life of a bomb disposal officer. His last was a meticulously researched story of the awards of the medal to women, appropriately entitled *Fashioned into a Bow* (1995), since that is how the brick-red ribbon with its



Henderson: two hectic careers

five brave blue stripes is tied for full-dress civilian wear.

A. B. SAINSBURY

Donald Victor Henderson, bomb disposal officer: born Dover, Kent 12 December 1921; GM 1975; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Hornsea, Lincolnshire 30 January 1999.

## Lionel Bart

YOUR OBITUARY of Lionel Bart [by Tom Vailance, 5 April] was right to point out his tendency towards self-destruction, writes Professor Barry Fantoni. There were so many instances but one in particular should be put on record, as it concerned a stage during his career when his popularity was at a low ebb and a real chance to revive it was on offer.

Sometime during the Seventies John Wells and I wrote a musical based on his life, which featured all his best-loved songs. The show was called *Lionel* (no exclamation mark) and opened at the theatre where *Cats* now plays. The final curtain on the first night was greeted with much warmth and plenty of applause. It looked certain for a run. Then Lionel was asked up on the stage for a few words. They were: "This is the worst show I have ever seen. Don't bother coming to see it." No one did and *Lionel* closed after eight weeks.



# Barbara Dockar-Drysdale

BARBARA DOCKAR-DRYSDALE was the last survivor of that influential band of mid-century contributors to the advancement of therapeutic understanding and care of children in Britain whose work was crucially shaped by their involvement with wartime evacuees.

The other three, Anna Freud, John Bowlby and Donald Winnicott, came to this experience already trained as psychoanalysts. This particular clinical perspective influenced how they saw bereavement, separation and interruption of family life affecting the child, and what the desirable remedies were. Unlike them, Dockar-Drysdale came to therapeutic child work largely innocent of theory. Yet her therapeutic legacy deserves to stand alongside theirs, or, at least, to be seen as complementing it.

She was brought to a gradual realisation of the importance of understanding and responding to the inner world of the child through her own experience of family bereavement (she lost her much-loved father, Thomas Gordon, Professor of Surgery at Trinity College Dublin, when she was just 15), then as a young adult by the practical experience of ordinary child care and motherhood.

This led her towards an interest in childhood psychopathology, but first and foremost she was a woman of action. The popularity of her writings with social workers and educationists derives from the sense that her clinical observations spring from her work in situation and with experiences like their own.

In 1935 Dockar-Drysdale began her childcare career without any special training by running a village playgroup in Blewbury, then in Berkshire (now in Oxfordshire), with a friend. She discovered she had a knack of understanding small children and resolving their difficulties and tantrums without recourse to the usual nostrums of the time - of ignoring, making the child stand in the corner, or reprimanding with the child or its parents. She was popular and appreciated. Word spread about her success with particularly troublesome children.

The following year she married Stephen Dockar-Drysdale and moved to Radley, nearby, where he was farming. By the outbreak of the Second World War she was sufficiently well-known as one who "understood" children to become involved with the emergency evacuation programme in Berkshire.

Her house in Radley (first the Home Farm, and then, when her husband joined the Army, a large Victorian house in the village), where by now she was bringing up her own small children, doubled as a home and a school. Not just toddlers, but some of the most intractable youngsters gravitated to her household, and stayed. The combination seemed unpropitious, but proved fruitful.

She came to recognise through direct experience, rather than theory, the basic similarities between the disruptive and aggressive displays of an unloved or abandoned teenager and the ordinary petulance of the distressed infant who might be afraid, however unrealistically, of the absence of its mother; she also realised that, if the older child's panic attacks were to be alleviated (for this



When Jill, a withdrawn child aged seven, came to the Mulberry Bush School, she drew two squiggles on a piece of paper. What were they, Barbara Dockar-Drysdale wondered?

Jill: A pair of socks they are... baby's socks... one was lost.  
BD-D: I am so very sorry - how cold the baby's foot must have been.  
Jill: Yes, they took her into a room with an electric fire and a television, but it wasn't any good.  
BD-D: She needed the lost sock?  
Jill: It has never been found... will she ever find it?  
BD-D: I am afraid not. I wish it could be so.  
Jill: Is there anything that could be done?  
BD-D: Well, there is one thing which occurs to me. Could you perhaps learn to knit, and then you could knit another sock for the baby - but this would be very difficult, you would have to find a pattern and the right wool, and someone to help you to do it. There would be dropped stitches, and you might even lose the knitting and have to start once more.  
Jill: I would like to come to you, and learn to knit.

from *The Provision of Primary Experience* (1990)

how she saw them), he would need to experience the sustained reassurance of a reliable parent figure, one who did not reject and abandon him whatever the provocation.

These wartime experiences, and the lessons she learnt from them, in due course became embodied in the therapeutic philosophy of the Mulberry Bush School, which was founded formally in 1948, opening not far away in Standlake at the invitation of the Home Office. She ran the school with her husband for the next 16 years. Later she became its Therapeutic Adviser before, in 1969, turning her attention away from the emotional casualties of primary-

work at the Cotswold Community. Like the Mulberry Bush it has continued to survive the changes in childcare thinking and practice, particularly the changed emphasis in the last two decades on family as distinct from institution-based therapeutic care. The continuing vigour of these establishments is testimony to her therapeutic resourcefulness in finding creative ways to meet and mend the deficiencies stemming from failures in the earliest bonding between mother and baby in a non-family setting, one resilient enough to cope non-punitively with the inevitable quotient of acting out entailed in such a programme.

Not content with founding and directing a special school, Dockar-Drysdale between times trained as an individual psychotherapist, in which capacity she worked closely with Donald Winnicott among others. She also lectured and published three volumes of papers, *Therapy in Child Care* (1968), *Consultation in Child Care* (1973) reprinted with the first as *Therapy and Consultation in Child Care* (1980) and *The Provision of Primary Experience: Winnicottian work with children and adolescents* (1990). Though sensitive to the implied criticism that her therapeutic enthusiasm outran her judgement, that in the parlance of psychoanalysts "she wasn't sufficiently trained", she studied assiduously the works of Anna Freud, August Aichorn, and Winnicott especially.

Dockar-Drysdale was generous with her ideas, and had the gift of drawing out the therapeutic potential of colleagues in ways which also enlarged them personally. Above all, she was sensitive towards children and their experiences, without being sentimental about them. She respected the reality of their capacity to suffer, a respect which freed her from illusions about the child's own considerable capacity to cause suffering in another and in the adults responsible for them. Her writings show that it is possible to identify and to treat the future psychopath, provided intervention comes early enough and is appropriately based (which does not necessarily mean being family-based).

She also showed that debates about "treatability" are as much to do with the adult world's willingness to pay the (human) price, as about the causes or reversibility of the original disorder. At a time when the therapeutic potential of community-based treatment for youngsters was more readily countenanced than it is today, Barbara Dockar-Drysdale's was a voice that was heard and heeded in childcare circles.

Perhaps as the problems of childhood and adolescence seem to multiply before our eyes, whilst the solution to them continue to elude us, her work will be found to have a continuing relevance.

CHRISTOPHER BEDELL

Barbara Estelle Gordon, psychotherapist; born Dublin 17 October 1912; married 1936 Stephen Dockar-Drysdale (died 1996); two sons, two daughters; died Fairford, Gloucestershire 18 March 1999.

## ASTRONAUTICAL NOTES

ADRIAN BERRY

### Rip Van Winkle with compound interest

OF ALL tales of folklore remembered in future ages, the best known will be the story of Rip Van Winkle. It tells of a man who aged only one night while the rest of the world aged 20 years. And it will be remembered because it is going to come true.

Rip, it will be recalled from the fable told by Washington Irving in 1819, was a thrifty, hen-pecked husband who liked a drink. One day he wandered up a mountain in the Catskills in search of game. There he met some strangely dressed people who gave him some peculiar wine which made him drop fast asleep.

When he woke the following morning, his gun was rusty and his dog had vanished. On descending to his village, he found that everyone he had known was dead (including, to his relief, his nagging wife). Two decades had passed. A war had been fought. He had gone to sleep a subject of George III and awoken a citizen of the United States.

This story is going to come true countless times - not on magic mountains, but in space ships. Einstein's 1905 special theory of relativity predicts that what happened to Rip will happen to all astronauts who travel at close to the speed of light. Not only will they age much more slowly than the stay-at-homes. They will also be able to make a great deal of money out of doing so.

What if Rip, instead of being an idle frequenter of inns, had been a keen businessman who knew in advance about the properties of magic mountains. Suppose that before climbing the mountain he had invested £100 at compound interest at a rate of 11 per cent - a reasonable rate to expect since he would undertake not to touch it for 20 years. On his return he would find that his capital had appreciated by 800 per cent. Together with his original investment, he would now have £900 in his pocket.

Were he to repeat this exercise 10 or more times he would become vastly richer than Bill Gates. By the end of the 20th century, he would be only 12 days older, but his village would be 240 years older. His original £100 would by then have turned into more than £7 trillion.

While researching my book over the past three years, I read many varied and interesting opinions about manned flights to the stars, the ultimate goal of space travel. What is particularly interesting are the incredibly naive predictions about who is going to pay for these trips, and why.

Many experts assume that governments on Earth will finance them. This is absurd. Why should governments pay people to fly off to distant planets where they cannot be taxed? For national prestige? Surely not. Interstellar flight is a long-term project, and any such prestige will accrue long after any politician who supported it has left office.

What, then, of interstellar trade? Apart from tourism, trade is the main motive for intercontinental travel on Earth. But this will not work either. Maybe fabulous new minerals will be found on a planet circling Alpha Centauri. But our local asteroids bear many minerals: why go so far for what can be got so near at hand?

For science, or for adventure? No doubt many voyages will be undertaken for these purposes, but they cannot provide the finance needed for regular scheduled voyages, year after year, like a sort of cosmic British Airways.

Instead, imagine a man who invests part of his money at compound interest, goes off to Alpha Centauri with a large party, establishes a thriving colony there, and returns alone to collect his accumulated wealth.

Being now extremely rich and still relatively young, he can finance a second expedition to another star, and so on. Einstein's discovery will have created a new kind of capitalism.

Adrian Berry is the author of *The Giant Leap: mankind heads for the stars* (Headline, £18.99)

### Royal invitation confirms accord

SETTING ASIDE persisting differences on arms control, Britain and the Soviet Union yesterday sealed their new-found understanding with acceptance by the Queen of an invitation to pay the first visit by a reigning monarch to Moscow since the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

The announcement of what will be a hugely symbolic event came as Mikhail Gorbachev ended a packed 36-hour visit with an informal lunch with the Queen amid the splendour of Windsor Castle. It confirmed both the close personal and political relationship between himself and Margaret Thatcher, and their different views on nuclear deterrence - above all on the need for Nato to modernise its short-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

After what Mrs Thatcher described as a truly remarkable visit by "a man of destiny", she said there was no question of getting rid of nuclear weapons. The modernisation programme would go ahead, and Mr Gorbachev's announcement on the curtailment of Soviet production of weapons-grade uranium would "have no effect in practice".

Speaking at the airport before his return to turbulent domestic politics, and indications of new nationalist unrest in Georgia, Mr Gorbachev proclaimed his "great satisfaction" with what had been achieved in London. But he warned that, if Nato went ahead with plans to modernise, it would jeopardise the Vienna talks on European co-operation, and "devalue" the gains of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. "We strongly oppose modernisation... nor do we intend to modernise our weapons unless we are forced to do so," he declared.

Last night, Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet spokesman, rejected suggestions that Mr Gorbachev's speech, which contained no hint of widely expected new proposals on Europe, had been a disappointment. "You in Europe have become too pampered," he said, blaming the West for not responding to initiatives already tabled by Moscow.

Mr Gorbachev did, however, aim his words as much at the Soviet public as at his international audience. For all its problems, perestroika was irreversible. "This is only the beginning of the road for us." Tests and trials lay ahead, "but we have chosen definitively and irrevocably the route to new forms of life".

As well as the announcement of an end to Soviet production of enriched weapons-grade uranium, and the closure of plutonium reactors, Mr Gorbachev disclosed that total Soviet troop strength at the start of this year was only 43 million, well below Western estimates of 5.1 million or more.

After implementation of the unilateral cuts of 500,000, announced last December, Mr Gorbachev claimed that Soviet troops would number 3.76 million in all, compared with a US strength of "more than three million" and a navy more than twice the size of Moscow's. "Fears of the Soviet military threat" are groundless, Mrs Thatcher, who was invited to make a return visit to Moscow, said she was very happy at the prospect of a state visit by the Queen. "There will be tremendous advantage: it will indicate the warmth in the relationship."

But the most positive line taken by Mrs Thatcher was her fierce support for the process of perestroika. She said that, following his political reforms, Mr Gorbachev had turned to the more difficult task of economic reconstruction in a country which had not had a free market for 70 years.

As for the main Gorbachev initiative of the day, Mrs Thatcher said that the Soviet Union already had a "sufficient" stockpile of uranium, which would increase as SS20s and other missiles were dismantled. She repeated her view on nuclear deterrence, saying: "Strong and sure at the moment means also nuclear." On Nato modernisation of short-range weapons, Mrs Thatcher said: "Obsolete weapons do not deter... The Soviet Union has just completed its programme of modernising short-range nuclear weapons. We have not yet started upon ours. I think we should complete it."

Front-page story from *The Independent*, Saturday 8 April 1999

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

**BIRTHS**  
HELM / POWELL: On 31 March, at the Royal Free Hospital, to Sarah and Jonathan, a daughter, Rosamund Yolanda, a sister for Jessica.

**DEATHS**  
PECK: Bob, died after a long illness, on 4 April, aged 53. He will be sadly missed by his wife Jill and children Hannah, George and Milly. The funeral service will take place at St John's Church, Spencer Hill, Wimbledon, on Wednesday 14 April at 11am, followed by private cremation. No flowers, but donations if desired to Magic Bullet Fund, c/o F.W. Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AZ. Telephone 0181-546 4813.

WILES: John, died peacefully on the Easter Monday after a long illness. Much loved and greatly missed by his many friends. Funeral service at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Garth Road, Morden on 13 April at 3pm. Memorial service immediately afterwards at the Farnham Sports and Social Club, Taunton Avenue, Raynes Park, London SW20. Flowers, or donations to any cancer research charity or the Macmillan Nurses.

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 61; Professor Sir John Arbutnot, Principal, Strathclyde University, 60; Mr Tony Banks MP, Minister for Sports, 56; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 55; Sir Andrew Bowden, former MP, 69; Mr Graham Burton, High Commissioner to Nigeria, 58; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 75; Mr Julian Lennon, rock musician, 36; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former Matron-in-Chief, PMRAFNS, 94; Miss Carmen McRae, jazz singer, 77; Mrs Mary Moore, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 69; Mr Garth Morrison, chairman, East and Midlothian NHS Trust, former Chief Scout, 56; Miss Virginia O'Brien, actress and singer, 78; Mr Peter Rogers, chief executive, ITC, 58; Sir Michael Sachs, High Court judge, 67; Mr Charles Saunders, former film director, 95; Mr Ian Smith, former prime minister of Rhodesia, 80; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 36; Sir Thomas Thomson.

**ANNIVERSARIES**  
Births: Philip IV, King of Spain, 1605; Cornelius de Heem, still-life painter, 1631; Giuseppe Tartini, composer, 1692; Sir Frederick William Burton, painter, 1816; William Henry Welch, pathologist, 1850; Albert I, King of the Belgians, 1875; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, 1889; Mary Pickford (Gladys Smith), actress, 1893; E.Y. "Yip" Harburg (Isidore Hochberg), lyricist and librettist, 1898; Sonja Henie, skater and actress, 1912.

Deaths: John II, Byzantine emperor, killed by accident 1143; Marie-Jean Antoine-Nicolas Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet, mathematician and revolutionary, 1794; Domenico Gaetano Maria Donizetti, composer, 1848; Elisha Graves Otis, inventor of the safety lift, 1861; Eric Axel Karlfeldt, poet, 1931; Edwin Cannan, economist, 1935; Adolph Simon Ochs, newspaper proprietor, 1935; Sir William Henry Hadow, writer and musicologist, 1937; Eugene-Marcel Prevost, novelist, 1941; Vasilav Fomich Nijinsky, dancer and choreographer, 1950; Pablo Ruiz y Picasso, painter and sculptor, 1973.

On this day: Florida was discovered by Juan Ponce de Leon, 1513; the Prince of Wales (later George IV) was married to Caroline of Brunswick at the Chapel Royal, St James's, 1795; Ponchielli's opera *La Gioconda* was first performed, Milan, 1876; the Anglo-French agreement called the Entente Cordiale was signed, 1904; Herbert Henry Asquith became prime minister, 1908; over 200 people were drowned after the collision of a Nile excursion steamer near Cairo, 1912; a treaty was signed between Colombia and the United States agreeing control of the Panama Canal Zone, 1914; King Zog of Albania left his country, following the Fascist invasion, 1939; the final assembly of the League of Nations was held, 1946; in Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta and five others were convicted of being involved with Mau Mau, 1953.

Today is the Feast Day of St Dionysius of Corinth, St Julia Billiard, St Perpetua of Tours and St Walter of Pontione.

**LECTURES**  
National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Court Painters III: Van Dyck and the English Court", 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Mark Haworth-Booth, "Henri Cartier-Bresson and Photojournalism", 2pm.  
Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Francis Bacon: the love of life and death", 1pm.  
British Museum: John Lee, "Caring for Cultures", 11.30am.  
National Portrait Gallery: Valerie Holman, "The Victorians at Leisure: individual and group portraits", 1.10pm.

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Scots Guards.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
PEAKE: 3 April 1998. Harry John, CBE, Headmaster, Billingham Grammar School 1957-65, Principal, Sheffield City College of Education 1965-78. Deeply loved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
The Prince of Wales visits Lochmaddy Surgery, North Uist, Western Isles; opens the Berneray Causeway linking North Uist to Berneray in the Western Isles; joins members of the Berneray

community for a reception at the Community Centre and then presents the "Lord of the Isles Trophy" to the winning team of the Shinty Mini Festival; visits the Taigh Chearsabhaigh Arts Centre at Lochmaddy, North Uist; and visits the Iron Age settlement at Bernera, Isle of Lewis. The Duke of Kent.

Vice-Chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, visits Rolls Royce, Filton, Bristol, and Hewlett-Packard, Bristol. Princess Alexandra attends a reception and lunch, to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, at the Cafe Royal, London W1.

**WORDS**  
CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
welsh, v.  
Meanwhile, will the BBC transmit Henry V again, or *Decline and Fall*? ... the headmaster Dr Fagan concludes that "the Welsh are the only nation in the world that has produced no graphic or plastic art, no architecture, no drama. They just sing, sing and blow down wind instruments of plated silver. They are deceitful because they cannot discern truth from falsehood, deceived because they cannot discern the consequences of their indulgence."



# Does a split home spoil a child?

Simon's 10-year-old son divides his time between his mother's household – materialistic and liberal – and Simon's more strict and frugal home. Each parent has a new young family. The boy is behaving like a "spoiled brat": should he stay with one parent?

## VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

In some people's houses you can arrive late, get drunk and swear, watch the telly and eat grapes on the carpet. In other people's houses you arrive on time, say please and thank-you and drop them a grateful line the next day. And you can enjoy each experience equally, but in different ways.

So I don't think it's Simon's rigid rules that are making his son so bolshie. It's because the rules are ones that always involve the use of the word "no". OK, the child can't watch violent films or buy trendy trainers at Simon's. But does Simon offer any amusing alternatives? Excellent board-games? Snooker? Carpet bowls? If not, no wonder the chap's sulky.

Then I wonder if the boy's not treated, along with Simon's young family, as "one of the kids". There's a great difference between a 10-year-old and a five-year-old. And no doubt the boy's not particularly crackers about his step-parents or, yet, his younger half-siblings. They're all living and breathing evidence of the split between his parents. Are special concessions made to Simon's son so that he feels he's older, more grown-up, more

sophisticated? Does Simon ask if his son would like his friends to stay sometimes? Does Simon take him out on his own to do son-and-dad things? Does he go out of his way to make his son feel special and wanted?

I know that I'm sounding a bit "all a child wants is a piece of string, a bent pin and a pond and he's happy as Larry"-ish, but most boys when they are faced with the choice of a video or a fishing or camping trip with their dad would voluntarily choose to go on the expedition.

If Simon made the effort, he could make his home, frugal and strict as it is, every bit as interesting and entertaining an environment as his ex-wife's. If his son is behaving like a "spoiled brat" it's because he's angry and unhappy at Simon's. And Simon's pejorative interpretation of his behaviour can hardly make his son feel wanted.

And perhaps Simon doesn't realise that now is probably the time when his son wants to feel less "stateless". Maybe he'd like a base: a single phone number where he knows his friends can reach him. Living in two houses is rather like living in hotels. I bet he'd like to have one room where he can keep all his favourite

things and feel safe and private. Not two.

The answer is, of course, to ask the boy what he'd like to do, and to do it in a way that doesn't sound as if he's not loved or wanted. Simon could say to him: "Look, I realise you're getting older now. I'd love to have you living here all the time, and I know your mum would love to have you living with her all the time. I'm not asking you to choose, but would you like it if you made your base at mum's, and then come over to ours when you want? I have a feeling you'd like to start making your own decisions a bit. Would you like to come here every other weekend, say, but if you feel like coming every weekend that's fine, or if one month you only want to come one weekend then that's fine, too? Or do you like things as they are?"

And so on.

In other words, don't ask me, ask him. Treat him like a responsible boy who's growing up very quickly and he'll behave reasonably. Treat him like he's a spoiled brat and it should be no surprise that he responds in the same way.

## DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Two households can be good. It would be most unfair of Simon to stop his son spending time at his son's mother's home. The experience of two markedly different home environments has probably had significant effects on their son, but these can be positive and negative. By the age of 10 their son has experienced most aspects (good and bad) of both parents and step-parents, and their differing home environments. At worst he is probably as confused and spoilt as he can be. However, he has also benefited from experiencing two different lifestyles.

NICHOLAS E. GOUGH  
Swindon, Wiltshire

Spend more time together. Simon's son has been very fortunate in that he has enjoyed the full benefit of the emotional support of both natural parents since divorce. The method by which your ex-wife and yourself have maintained these arrangements is most commendable and you should attempt to overcome this latest problem through co-operation with your ex. Failing this you should consider discussing the situation with your son, without being derogatory about your ex.

## READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Such behavioural problems are common amongst children in split families. Regrettably they are often worse when the father spends shorter periods of contact with the child. You should certainly not consider backing out of your son's life. He is about to enter a crucial stage in his development.

JOHN BEALE  
London

Hold on to your standards. Kids are miraculously flexible. The one thing they can't do is pretend one of their parents doesn't exist. My daughters (now 26 and 28) had a 50-50 upbringing, and can now value, criticise, and love both sides. What your son needs is for you to hold fast to your standards.

TONY CROFTS  
Witney, Oxon

## NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I divorced my husband 15 years ago because, although he was a marvellous father, he couldn't stop belittling me, criticising me and trying to make me his clone. I spent the time alone reasonably happily, had a couple of affairs, but recently re-met my husband who's moved to Spain after a heart attack. I suddenly realised that I was still in love with him. We've even discussed getting back together again, but he told me, very kindly, that he couldn't have sex any more. Now sex is very important to me. One orgasm and I'm

happy for a week. Do you think I could get a younger lover? I think my husband would accept the situation, but I'd prefer to keep his existence to myself. Do you think this would be a good idea?

Yours sincerely, Alex

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from laterflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet

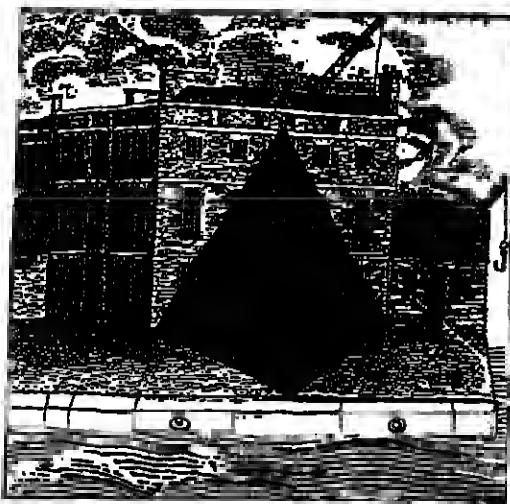
## POETIC LICENCE

### THE GRIMY WONDERS OF THE WORLD

BY MARTIN NEWELL

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

A handful of Britain's old industrial sites have been nominated for World Heritage status this week. Liverpool waterfront, the Blaconavon industrial landscape and parts of the Paddington to Bristol railway may now rank alongside the Taj Mahal and the Pyramids.



The old industrial spectres rattle  
Heavy chains on Pennine scars  
And groan to be forgiven  
By the grey-black grimy hills.  
But among those mines and mills  
Lay the forge of western wealth  
Where the lesions healed slowly  
If at all, until by stealth,  
Time and nature petrified  
The iron mastodons and rust,  
Rain or ruin dragged the monsters  
Down to rubble, shale and dust.

And dirty docks and hulking wharfs  
Which witnessed sailing ships come in  
Saw holds picked clean by locust cranes  
Heard hoists and hawsers creak and keen  
While in the country in between  
The thrumming ports which burgeoned then  
And reeking towns, huge gangs of men  
Built long canals which served as veins  
To feed their filthy throbbing hearts  
Until the coming of the trains.

With Cornish tin, Mancunian cotton  
Sheffield steel, and Stafford plates  
And everything the British made  
The tables of the world were laid

Now all these towers  
And blackened walls  
Great edifices leering down  
Those bridges built by engineers  
Their soot-thick girders linking town  
With latticed iron to other town  
Will have to do for pyramids  
Our Hanging Gardens, Colossi  
A last remaining memory  
Of times when giants strode the land  
And what we had...  
Was industry.

# Daggers drawn as Black Leather Jackets take on the Blue Rinses

Stay away from the crime-writers' AGM tonight. It'll be absolute murder. By Jane Jakeman

The sedate surroundings of the New Cavendish Club, just behind Marble Arch in the West End of London, may soon witness a deadly conflict. The opponents are all experts in murder weapons, from the stud-nailed boot to the slim, Italian dagger.

Tonight, at their AGM, the 450-odd members of the Crime Writers Association will vote on whether their current silver-haired Chairman (the chosen term, irrespective of sex) should hand over the reins of authority Janet Laurence is a writer of "civilised" crime stories about art and food, and a former *Daily Telegraph* food columnist. Her challenger is Ian Rankin, author of gritty murder fiction in tough settings. Should the vote go against her, it would symbolise a transfer of power not only from one generation to another, but from a style that has been dominant since the foundation of the CWA in 1953 to a new kind of crime-writing.

The truth is that the CWA embraces two uneasily co-existing parties, which we might for convenience's sake describe as the "Black Leather Jackets" and the "Blue Rinses". Sporadic warfare has been going on between the two factions for some years. "Really, the whole thing is septic," says one black leather-trouser-suited author, Gillian Lindsay, whose suffragette detective, Nell Bray, is an unexpectedly tough cookie in petticoats. "For a small association, the CWA can be terribly quarrelsome."

The argument is not just about two types of crime-writing, but two elements of British culture. The "Blue Rinse" is the traditional detective story, usually set in a village, featuring middle-class investigators and barely noticeable violence. As a style, it rose to glory in the golden age of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers, and still has a strong following, currently showing in the work of writers such as Caroline Graham, whose recently televised *Midsomer Murders* featured the usual cast of vicars and spinsters-of-this-parish. In the traditional novel, the focus is on the detective – often an amateur sleuth or an unworried policeman – rather than on the psychology of the perpetrator. The Baroness PD James is probably the most literary and respected current practitioner of the genre, but there has been a sense of critical unease for some time now that her books are out of touch with modern life.

The Black Leather faction write tough novels of the underworld and its drug culture, the world of *Cracker* rather than of *Juliet Bravo*, with lots of psychopathology and puke in the stairwell. It is reckoned to have some of the best contemporary writers, such as Nicholas Blincoe, Val McDermid and Ian Rankin. Its supporters give it a mainstream cultural



Ian Rankin (left) and Janet Laurence encapsulate the clash of cultures among Britain's crime-writers

Photo (left): Susan Burrell

identification as the British version of the French cinema's *Noir*, a *Chandleresque* world in urban settings, usually run-down inner slums or bleak housing estates. Manchester is a favourite location but, recently, Black Leather has taken a distinctly Celtic turn, sometimes known uneasily as Tartan Noir. Rankin's Inspector Rebus operates in Edinburgh; prize-winning newcomer Denise Mina's *Garnet Hill* is set in the even tougher environment of Glasgow. There's a political take on the division, too: at the last CWA dinner, Ruth Dudley Edwards, author of several crime novels of the traditional "Caper in the Cathedral Close" type, and *Spectator* columnist, tried to interrupt a speech by Michael Mansfield QC, who was addressing the assembled crimesters on the seemingly inflammatory subject of human rights.

The debate has actually been coming to the boil for a couple of decades. Mike Ripley was one of the early supporters of *Noir*. "The CWA didn't acknowledge the existence of a new wave of crime-writing," he says. "I see it as a vehicle for fiction about contemporary life – though that may not be life as the CWA knows it." Ripley is the crime reviewer for the *Daily Telegraph*, so do his readers share his taste? "Oh, yes, my readers love hard-boiled crime," he says. "In fact, their tastes in that direction are stronger than mine," which gives an interest-

ing insight into the leisure activities of *Disgusted*, *Knockout* wells.

But Ripley's objection is less to the traditional crime novel than to the failure of the Association to reward new writing. There are certainly awards, a plethora of Daggers, handed out since the CWA was founded by John Creasey in 1953: the Macallan Gold Dagger for Best Crime Novel of the Year (formerly the Crossed Red Herring Award), the Silver Dagger, the Dagger in the Library. Most con-

Does Blincoe feel bitter against the old guard? "I've got over it all now," he said cheerfully. "Anyway, I enjoy hanging out with the old ladies. I like their sartorial style – I think tweeds and twinsets are terrific. As for Janet Laurence – I'd never call her a Blue Rinse. She's a Silver Fox – gorgeous!" But the quarrel isn't just about style; it has other resonances and, this being Britain, the leading one is class. It came to the fore in 1995 when PD James was accused by Chaz Brenchley

the coveted Cartier Diamond Dagger in the august surroundings of the House of Lords, might seem the exemplar of the traditional crime writer. Does she ally herself with Blue Rinses?

She called the epithet "abominably sexist", pointing out that it was only applied to women. "It's insulting and derogatory," she said forcefully. As York commented, many crime-writers, such as Minette Walters, are pursuing psychological depths that would have been left gently unexplored a couple of decades ago.

Indeed, Janet Laurence's latest book, *Appetite for Death*, has some pretty *noir* undertones, and Ian Rankin's Inspector Rebus has an unexpected affection for Mozart, so when the Silver Fox hands over the Presidency of the CWA to the Black Leather Supremo, they may not be so far apart as some like to believe.

Does Chaz Brenchley have any comments on his row with the Baroness? "I think you know, it would be rather dishonourable to open things up again," said the Crime Tiger of the North.

Lord Peter Wimsey himself could not be more gentlemanly. Perhaps the New Carlton carpets won't need the services of Messrs Sketchley after all – but nevertheless, CWA members should probably keep a sharp look-out for the ultimate award, the Dagger in the Back.

Some felt that Blincoe's book was too full of drugs, sex and obscenities for the CWA's liking

tentious is the John Creasey Memorial Dagger for the best crime novel by a first-time crime-writer. In 1995, many expected that it would go to Nicholas Blincoe for *Acid Casuals*, but the glittering prize was withheld from his sharp-eyed account of a transvestite Manchester underworld: some felt that the book was too violent, too full of sex, drugs and obscenities to be in keeping with the genteel traditions of the CWA. And, it was muttered darkly in crime circles, the influence of the Baroness kept him from the prize – in what seemed like a deliberate gesture, no award at all was made that year.

le (whose latest book, *Blood Waters*, is dedicated to a Portsmouth in Sunderland) of middle-class bias. Brenchley, crop-haired and sporting earrings ("one in each ear – please put that in – it's very important," said the rebel), was supported by a number of young authors.

"Social and political issues were involved, which the new writers were taking hold of," comments Mike Stotter, editor of the respected crime magazine *Shots*.

Margaret Yorke, author of over 40 novels and a doyenne of the profession, who will be the recipient on 6 May of



BBC's *Great Expectations* will be rather more disturbing than the usual costume drama. By James Rampton

# On the darker side of Dickens

**P**rozac. Child abuse. The Islington Tendency. Clinical depression. Abusive relationships. These are hardly terms that Charles Dickens would have been familiar with, yet they peppered discussions during the making of BBC2's grippingly dark new version of *Great Expectations*. The adapter, you see, is Tony Marchant, hitherto known as the writer of such stark, in-your-face contemporary dramas as the Bafta-winning *Holding On*, *Goodbye Cruel World* and *Take Me Home*. So has the BBC let a hungry Rotweiler loose at a refined tea party? That's certainly how keepers of the Dickensian flame will see it.

"Some things will upset the purists - that's inevitable," Marchant shrugs. "But the weird thing is, if I don't upset the purists, maybe I haven't done a good adaptation. The mark of a good adaptation is how many letters you can attract from the Charles Dickens Society."

Letters may well come flooding in about Marchant's portrayal of Miss Havisham. As played by Charlotte Rampling, she is a borderline sociopath. Twitching, half-smiling, distraught, she whispers to the young Pip (Gabriel Byrne) when she first meets him: "I sometimes have sick fancies." Having been humiliated by her and her protégée Estella, Pip runs tearfully from Satis House, all the while conjuring up gruesome visions of Miss Havisham hanging from a rafter. This Miss Havisham is what a 1990s analyst would call "dysfunctional".

"She is ripe for psychotherapy," reckons David Snodin, the producer of *Great Expectations*. "In modern terms, she's a quintessential clinical depressive. She's an agoraphobic who won't wash. These days she'd be on Prozac - and it wouldn't do her any good. Dickens purists might want a larger-than-life Miss Havisham, but Charlotte's is more frightening because you haven't the faintest idea what she'll do next. She brings a very contemporary sense of madness to the role."

Nearing 40, Marchant is a benign and unfeasibly tall figure who has to stoop when he passes through a doorway. Brought up on a council estate in Bermondsey, he used to spar at the famous Thomas à Becket gym in south-east London. "At first Tony didn't know whether to be a boxer or a poet," laughs Snodin. "He thought the theatre was full of poofs in cravats."

Marchant went for the cravat option and now resides with his wife and children in a comfortable house in south-west London, whose walls are adorned with awards and posters from his successful series. The one advertising *Different for Girls*, his feature film about a man who has a sex-change operation, boasts the catchline, "expect the unexpected" - which might stand as a summary of Marchant's emotionally raw brand of drama.

He argues that you have to take account of modern sensibilities when interpreting *Great Expectations*; you can't pretend the 1990s never happened. According to Marchant: "It's important to pay attention to the psychological motivations of the characters. For instance, I've looked at the idea of nurture and exactly what Miss Havisham wreaks on Estella. I couldn't help noticing that this is a book about abusive relationships. Abuse continues into other relationships. The fact that Estella ends up in a relationship where she's abused follows the received wisdom of modern psychology that there's a cycle of abuse."

It is these contemporary echoes that distinguish Marchant's adaptation. (They are also what attracted John Sullivan to dramatise *David Copperfield* for the BBC and Alan Bleasdale to pen his ITV version of *Oliver Twist*). One of the abiding themes of *Great Expectations* is class - a subject which, like the poor, is always with us.

"You could say Pip's preoccupation is the same as Tony Blair's - how we all want to become middle class," Marchant surmises. "Pip thinks: 'How can I run away from my working-class existence and be appreciated by my betters?' The contemporary corollary would be: you move to Islington and acquire a taste for balsamic vinegar."

"The idea that improvement is measured in material terms is part of the political currency now. Pip and Estella's idea of progress is financial independence, and I see parallels with that today. Also, Pip's whole ambivalence about his humble background is - depressingly - still very potent."

More than anything else, however, *Great Expectations* chimes with Marchant's overriding interest in our contradictory natures. This was seen previously in the characters of Shaun (played by David Morrissey), the Inland Revenue inspector from *Holding On* who turns to embezzlement, or of Roy (Alan Armstrong), the grief-stricken carer in *Goodbye Cruel World* who starts to steal from the charity he administers.

"There has always been a proximity between criminality and respectability," Marchant says. "Without being too zeligistic about it, look at the story of Jonathan Aitken. It's that whole thing about turning up a stone to see what's underneath. For instance, what Pip imagined to be the great and the good turn out to be anything but. Think of the way Mr Jaggers's reputation is diminished in Pip's eyes when he is revealed as a morally contemptible figure. We all look at people like that and wonder what's in their cupboard."

These ambiguities exist within us all. "We're constantly confounded by the paradox between what we think we ought to feel and what we actually feel," Marchant continues. "That's what drama should be about. Drama is about aberration and conflict, and conflict comes when we don't quite add up to what we profess to be. Pip is full of those contradictions."



Charlotte Rampling (centre) plays Miss Havisham as a borderline sociopath, an agoraphobic who won't wash

For all the modern resonance of *Great Expectations*, isn't there still a danger that viewers will groan: "Oh no, not another period drama?" Marchant thinks they should only complain about bad period dramas. "As long as they're done well, they're worth it. It's always worth revisiting *Great Expectations*, because every generation can bring something fresh to it. No one says to the Royal Shakespeare Company: 'Why are you doing Henry V again?'"

Marchant explores comparable dilemmas in *Bad Blood*, a new three-parter for ITV about the moral disintegration of an infertile surgeon (Alex Jennings) who resorts to desperate measures in his quest to adopt a Romanian baby. It again coheres with the writer's ideas about social façades.

"It's about how private inadequacies reflect themselves in public acts," Marchant says. "When I was growing up, I was

knocked out by the writing of Arthur Miller. It was revelatory to me that something which is morally dense can be exciting at the same time."

"You can't ask people to buy into the more rarefied things you're trying to achieve unless you've grounded the story in a reality we can all recognise. Otherwise, it would just be a thesis. So when the Alex Jennings character starts doing things that are beyond the pale, we have already located ourselves with him emotionally. It's more disturbing to say: 'I understand exactly why this guy has gone on this journey.' It's the Macbeth Syndrome."

Do not, however, come to Marchant if you're looking for happy endings: he cheerfully recalls "blubbing away" in a public library while writing *Goodbye Cruel World*. He is currently working on a "heavy" three-parter about the effect on a family of

a boy with attention deficiency hyperactivity disorder. "Stoic endings are the best I can manage," he says. "Drama is not about people being happy. It's about people being miserable. It's about things not being normal."

"It's important not to skimp," he concludes. "I want to go as far as I can without people switching off. In *Goodbye Cruel World*, there was a scene where a son carries his seriously ill mother to the loo. The question was at what moment the loo door would be shut on the camera. But we didn't want to be tastelessly discreet. We wanted to confront the reality of a son coping with his mother's disability. In the end, we kept the door open the whole time. 'Brace yourselves for a similarly uncompromising experience with *Great Expectations*.'

*'Great Expectations'* is on BBC2 on Mon and Tues. *'Bad Blood'* is on ITV on 18 April

## History in the making

### CLASSICAL

ENDYMION ENSEMBLE  
PURCELL ROOM, LONDON

THE ENDYMION Ensemble's *Composer Choice* concert at the Purcell Room on Tuesday formed part of this 20-year-old ensemble's ongoing series of programmes selected and introduced by British composers. Knussen's choice included short pieces by Busoni, Stravinsky and Berg, and a whole first half of 1990s British and American pieces. Its second half, though, took us back to the 1950s, the period when Knussen himself came of age as a composer.

An engagingly informal speaker as well as a canny programme planner, Knussen, seated on the edge of the platform, reflected on his selection at the start of each half. He contradicted, as well as amplified, things in the programme notes, and generally offered many fresh insights into a range of music which is clearly close to his heart. Beginning with the exquisite sequence of Purcell arrangements and derangements written four years ago by Colin Matthews, George Benjamin and Knussen himself for the Purcell tercentenary, the ensemble then moved back a further three years, to Julian Anderson's *Seedrift*.

Anderson is a former Knussen pupil and this early Walt Whitman setting for soprano, flute (doubling piccolo), clarinet and piano demonstrates many of the virtues these two composers share: an acute response to poetic texts articulated with a powerful sense of drama and shaping (here including a lengthy interlude of lively counterpoint for the two wind instruments and mainly the lower part of the piano) and a remarkable rightness and economy of gesture. Both here and later on - in Stravinsky's tiny "Berceuse" and in Berg's two very different settings of "Schlesse Mir die Augen heide" - Nicole Tibbels was equally responsive to the drama of word and gesture, if sometimes applying too much vibrato.

Peter Lieberson may be Knussen's "closest musical friend" but I couldn't get much from his recent sextet, *Ziji*. But at least its clever instrumental writing allowed us to admire the brilliance, both individual and collective, of the Endymion players. Their sensibility could also be enjoyed in the second half, not least in Busoni's evergreen *Berceuse élégiaque* of 1909, and in Knussen's own "Sonya's Lullaby" for solo piano, from 1977.

1950s and 1960s constructivism formed the basis of Knussen's 1968 nonet, *Processionals*, as well as the Lieberson. Though since twice revised, it retains something of the hard-edged qualities associated with the serial heritage both composers share. But *Processionals* is also, to me, much more musically meaningful and surprisingly personal.

To conclude matters where they began, and to reflect another side of the 1960s, Maxwell Davies' *Fantasia and Two Passions*, imaginatively off-the-wall recreations of Purcell from a more innocent era, made an entertaining coda, despite an unscheduled and indulgent appearance by Tibbels as a fox-trotting vamp.

KEITH POTTER

## Thank you for the musical

MY FAVOURITE moment in *Mamma Mia!* - the ridiculously enjoyable new Abba Greatest Hits-style musical - comes at a point when one of the group's biggest hits is ingeniously twisted to suit two expansively gay characters who embark on a beautiful friendship whilst out cottaging. It's certainly sing-along time with a difference, when the couple let out a defiant chorus of "Portalo - wouldn't escape if they told us to/Portalo - oh, oh, oh...".

All right, only kidding. In fact, Abba's Eurovision winner is just about the only golden oldie they don't manage to shoe-horn into the show. By the standards, though, of these K-Tel-compilation West End musicals, Catherine Johnson's book does a pretty nifty integration job. Decked out with jokes that make *Are You Being Served?* sound like *Molière*, the original plot involves a young girl on the verge of marriage, and her relationship with her mother when she discovers that anyone of a trio of men could be her father. Inviting them all to the wedding, she

### THEATRE

MAMMA MIA!  
PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE  
LONDON

tries to distinguish which of them should give her away. The real drama, however, is less between the characters on stage than between the audience of fans and the music. A firmly camp note is struck from the opening announcement that "we'd like to warn people of a nervous disposition that platform boots and white lycra will be worn in this production". The show proceeds as though the fans have generously donated the songs for the evening (opportunities for a ditty are then engineered with a lithe outrageousness that is more *Crackerjack* than *Carmen*) and roars of proprietorial delight greet each cheeky intro.

It's certainly handy that the prospective bride's mother (the excellent Siobhan McCarthy) used to front a Seventies female rock band and that she's invited to the wedding her old backing singers: Louise Plowright's



'Mamma Mia!': moments of heartfelt feeling amid high camp

Geraint Lewis

leggy, comic broad and Jenny Galloway's very funny mini-mountain who really has the measure of the show's idiom. No excuse, then, not to break into an "impromptu" rendition of "Dancing Queen", replete with hairdryers, vibrators, and roll-on deodorants as mikes, designed to bring out the dancing queen in the straightest soul.

Indeed, the most avid collector of kitschy cues for a song might find himself overwhelmed as the two friends comfort the mother with the mock-souful solace of "Chiquita" or as one of the possible fathers unwraps Alan Partridge's Pringle sweater to "Knowing Me, Knowing You" and solemnly warns the bride of the pains of divorce.

The expatriate Greek island setting allows for campy (and badly done) underwater dream sequences. But there are also moments of heartfelt feeling, as when Ms McCarthy helps the daughter dress for the nuptials and sings, in pulsing voice "Slipping Through My Fingers", a spangly, plangent lament for the way our children elude us and

then leave us for good. It's also the moment when the intriguing generational aspect of the plot comes into focus.

Phyllida Lloyd's handsome production provides a terrific mood of airborne silliness. Abba is pop's most famous palindrome and, whichever way you read it, *Mamma Mia!* looks like being a hit.

PAUL TAYLOR

## Way of the worldly

A PRODUCTION of a play is a complicated mix of ingredients, and its staging an attempt to produce the perfect theatrical soufflé night after night. Few productions achieve the cordon bleu standard. However, Jonathan Church's production of *Colombe*, which marks the end of his plaudits-laden spell as artistic director of Salisbury Playhouse, wins him his third Michelin star.

He has blended a bitter-sweet script with a cast which offers talent and depth. Jean Anouilh's play tells the story of *Colombe* (Carolyn Backhouse), a virginal innocent whose husband Julien (Damien Goodwin) - a man of high standards and high dudgeon - leaves her in the care of his actress mother (Kate O'Mara) while he performs his National Service.

Dazzled by the Technicolor world of the theatre, *Colombe* loosens her stays - both mental and physical - with the assistance of Julien's charmingly shallow brother Armand (Matthew Whittle). When Julien returns, he finds his wife has - depending on your point of view - descended into trollop or discovered her true personality beyond her husband's shadow.

*Colombe* resounds with Anouilh's leitmotifs of the corruption of purity and the loss of innocence in a world dominated by compromise, money and the search for gratification. It carefully avoids simplistic messages by making all its characters equally (un)appealing, and it is hard to judge whether the changes which overcome *Colombe* are a blow for the liberation of women or an indictment of the amoral, candyfuff egocentricity of actors.

### THEATRE

COLOMBE  
SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE

But there is a great deal of wit enveloping this bleak serving of 20th-century disillusionment, which draws on the full spectrum of French theatrical tradition from Racine to Feydeau. Jeremy Sams's translation strikes a near-perfect balance between period authenticity and modern comprehensibility. The contemporary styling of the dialogue allows Anouilh's sharp-eyed psychological realism to strike right at the audience's heart without the intervening frosting of period language.

The end-product is funny and moving. This finely crafted piece of intelligent, entertaining theatre is a worthy parting performance by Jonathan Church, and one for which the good burghers of Salisbury should be duly thankful.

TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE

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## THE INFORMATION DAILY

Our unique and unrivalled guide to theatre, cinema and entertainment in your area

PAGES 15-17



## FILM

## Suffering for your Barthes

## THE BIG PICTURE

CHARLOTTE  
O'SULLIVAN

**HIGH ART (18)**  
DIRECTOR: LISA CHOLODENKO  
STARRING: ALLY SHEEDY, RADHA MITCHELL, PATRICIA CLARKSON  
101 MINUTES

Those who like to lose it at the movies may panic at the prospect of *High Art*. Here's a typical exchange between the main characters. Syd (Radha Mitchell), a critical theory graduate trying to make it in the world of New York art magazine publishing, and Lucy (Ally Sheedy), a retired photographer. Syd to Lucy: "This picture really ties into Barthes' whole conception of photographic ecstasy... the way he explores temporality and memory and meaning... Am I going on too much?" Lucy to Syd: "No, I haven't been deconstructed in a long time."

The only indigestible huzz word missing here is hermeneutics. Could a film sound more dustily academic? The surprise is that this scene, like so many others in *High Art*, is full of tight, juicy eroticism - the sort that makes your stomach squirm in dread and anticipation. The clue, perhaps, is in the ambiguous title. *High* as in how, but also high as a kite: blissed out, blasted, poised to take a big, life-threatening fall.

Lucy knows about both sorts of high. She's a junkie, joined at the crotch to fellow addict Greta, a German actress still heroically mourning the death of Rainer Fassbinder. Greta is also Lucy's muse - the dazed centre of her "cutting edge" photography. But the arrival of straight-in-every-way Syd (she lives downstairs and only pops up to fix a leak) disturbs their equilibrium.

Knowing it will earn her brownie points at the magazine, Syd asks Lucy to start work again. Lucy reluctantly agrees and creative/sexual sparks start to fly. The film's question is: will this new relationship - bound up as it is with notions of success and celebrity - make Lucy or break her?



It's a girl thing: Radha Mitchell (Syd) and Ally Sheedy (Lucy) decide to stop all the theorising in 'High Art'

Ally Sheedy is perfectly cast. Something of a post-retiree herself, having all but disappeared since her days as sullen mascot for the Brat Pack, her Lucy oozes brittle machismo. With that Wicked Witch of the West chin and Jack Nicholson smile, she's also weirdly attractive.

The viewer's fear, initially at least, is that first-time writer-director Lisa Cholodenko wants to romanticise her "outsider" artist. But as quickly becomes clear, Lucy is a half-formed being, a pickled adolescent, alternately sarcastic and coy. Only gradually, as she shakes off the vinegar, are we allowed to feel the thumping panic beneath. Only then does she become real. And lovable.

The same goes for Syd - only when you realise you're allowed to mistrust her do you relax into Mitchell's performance. Syd, curvy and soft like the young Maria Schneider, is forever tucking her hands into her sleeves and acting the cute kid, but her ambition is central to the plot. Neither virgin redeemer nor mixer, Syd's just feeling her way.

About to consummate the relationship with Lucy, her eyes zigzag in panic, then tears slide down her face. Lucy asks, "Are you OK?", and you have no idea what the reply will be. When she says, "I think I'm in love with you", it's entirely convincing. Syd would say something like this, even though we're unsure whether Lucy should believe her.

This is a film in which people don't say what they think or indeed think what they feel. It's the gaps, yawning between the clichés, that tell us what we need to know.

Just as crucial to the film's uncomfortable charm is Patricia Clarkson's Greta, a vision of hair dye and pan-stick, one eye half-closed, like a chink in her armour she's permanently trying to mend. The part could easily have been played for laughs but Clarkson (until now wasted in films like *Jumanji*) keeps her character tottering between tragedy and farce. Greta's decadence hides a deep conservatism, but she's something of a Lenny Bruce, too. Instantly suspicious of Syd, Greta's attacks are good enough to steal.

"Where's the teenager?" she screams at Lucy. "Where's your little psycho-fant?"

So the love triangle works superbly. Admittedly, though, there are problems with *High Art*. Cholodenko pokes fun at the pretentious art world (presenting us with editors so dreadful you imagine Satan writing their paychecks) and yet makes a big deal of its endorsement. Do we really need the scene where the "uncompromising" artwork is presented to the head honchos, causing them to sit up straight and cry "Wow, this is amazing"?

Of course, there's more to it than that. Cholodenko likes arty photography (she has played muse to the San Francisco photographer JoJo

Whilden for many years and managed to get the celebrated Nan Goldin to work on some of the photographs in the film). Cholodenko belongs to the scene she's attempting to send up (like John Waters, who adopted a similar tack in *Pecker*). Which means that if you don't like arty photography - if Larry Clark and Nan Goldin aren't your gods - you're doomed to find many of *High Art*'s reverential moments ludicrous. As Syd flicks through the magazine full of Lucy's soft-focus musings (which wouldn't look out of place in *FHM*), the music gets all misty-eyed. All this viewer did was snigger. But these are minor quibbles. Beautifully shot and hauntingly scored by indie band Shudder To

Think, this film stays in the bloodstream long after the credits have rolled. One testament to its power is how protective you feel of Sheedy and Mitchell. Will Sheedy's return to the limelight prove too much for her? As for Mitchell (formerly a hit-player on *Neighbours*), her career - like Syd's - has been given a great push by *High Art*. Suddenly she's on all sorts of magazine covers. Will she be able to cope with celebrity?

Cholodenko herself has jokingly complained that the film's success has endangered her "mental health". Is a good deconstruction really worth all this fuss? After watching *High Art*, you'd have to say yes.

Anthony Quinn is on holiday

## RUSHES

MIKE HIGGINS

YOU DON'T need a calculator for sequel economics: they almost always cost more than the original, and usually take in less at the box-office. And with the news that author Thomas Harris has just completed a sequel to *Silence of the Lambs*, the accountants at Universal Pictures will be busy trying to see how a lucrative sequel to Hannibal Lecter's 1991 screen outing can be put together. Just in case Universal hadn't got round to the awful truth, the

*Los Angeles Times* did the sums for them last week. The paper reckoned Harris will command a seven-figure sum for the screen rights, and Demme a similar amount to direct once again, not to mention the \$15m each Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster might pick up for reprising their roles.

With production budget, marketing and reasonable overspend margins, Universal can expect to splash out \$100m on a sequel. Demme's multiple

Oscar winner cost around \$22m to make and grossed six times that in the USA. Go figure.

WHILE EWAN McGregor piles on the column inches with tales of his Jedi exploits, it may have escaped his attention that *Rogue Trader*, the Nick Leeson biopic in which McGregor plays the nemesis of Barings bank, has finally got a release. On cable telly.

## ALSO SHOWING

■ A CIVIL ACTION STEVE ZALLIAN (15) ■ THE FACULTY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ (15) ■ SLAM MARC LEVIN (15) ■ NO ROBERT LEPAGE (15)  
■ THE RED VIOLIN FRANCOIS GIRARD (15) ■ BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS ROSE TROCHE (15) ■ ORGAZMO TREY PARKER (18)

A CIVIL Action promises a great deal. The fact-based plot is a peach: cynical, cocky and super-successful personal injury lawyer Jan Schlichtmann (John Travolta) takes on a tricky environmental case and all but destroys himself in the process. The acting impressively restrained (Robert Duvall's hammy support turn not included). And Travolta puts everything into the part, his well-heeled, I-can't-be-bothered-to-charm-you smiles bleeding, quite plausibly, into Joe Schmoie impotence (Travolta's tree-trunk neck forever straining at his white shirt collar tells a story all in itself).

Writer-director Zallian doesn't try to distract us with sex or sentiment. There's no alluring woman (even the excellent *The Verdict*, a similarly bleak study of America's legal system, tried that trick): no big-eyed child breaking our hearts; no adulation awaiting our hero. Unfortunately, Zallian's so pleased he's managed to avoid these genre clichés that he forgets to put anything in their place. What we get is a weary literal account of Jan's fall from financial grace and endless, pointless flashbacks. With so little to do, the imagination naturally grows restless. Still, *A Civil Action* remains a worthy piece, with the rush of satisfied rage provided in the last 10 minutes almost making up for lost time.

The *Faculty* is the latest self-conscious, cine-literate, comic-horror show from the pen of Kevin Williamson and, while it may not have *Scream*'s roller-coaster pace, it compen-



Travolta, impressively restrained in 'A Civil Action'

sates with wit in abundance. Smuggled in via a paranoid sci-fi plot, education is the big issue here. Six mismatched kids, including trendy Zeke (Josh Hartnett, cuter than the young Marlon Brando), wonderfully heavy of jaw are pupils at Herrington High, a survival-of-the-fittest hell-hole where the entire school budget goes on the powerhouse football team. Puny teachers barely scrape by (as Salma Hayek's fu-ridden Nurse Harper says, "I'm saving my sick days for when I feel better"). This is the sort of black humour you expect from Jimmy McGovern, not a Hollywood blockbuster.

And Williamson just keeps pushing. When things go hump in the lab, brainy Casey (Elijah Wood) realises his teachers are being replaced by aliens;

suddenly the staff look confident, aggressive, even sexy. As a teacher's revenge fantasy, it's good fun. It's also properly unnerving - the teachers haven't challenged the school's Darwinian logic, they've just joined the winning side. At the same time, Williamson avoids moral absolutes. On Friday nights "everybody's at the football stadium". Casey's smart-alec friends are appalled but maybe the noisy majority are on to something. Why should minority interests come first?

The *Faculty*, in other words, is a fantastically enjoyable treatise on democracy. The pity is that Williamson, along with over-hyped director Robert Rodriguez, can't keep up the good work. You know it's all over when they play "Another Brick in the Wall", the most gormless, anti-teacher rant of all time. By

the end of the film, special effects have taken over and virginal Marybeth (Laura Harris) is, for no good reason, wandering around starkers... Presumably this is what "the kids" want to see. As Homer Simpson might say: stupid kids.

Marc Levin's *Slam*, (which comes laden with prizes from the Sundance and Cannes festivals) follows Ray (Saul Williams), a sensitive lad from a Washington ghetto who gets shoved in jail on a drugs charge, but finds redemption through his rap stylings and the love of a woman (Sonja Sohn).

There's much to irritate here: in order to make Ray sympathetic, he's constantly shown being nice to kids and outcasts (à la *American History X*), black men have to be saintly if they're to be worthy of our attention. The acting by the two leads, meanwhile, is often OTT and their characters overly symbolic. The sense of claustrophobia inside the prison, though, is sharply dealt - even the shadows in the courtyard have a menacing, mercurial life of their own. And the film teases out some hard answers. Flawed, then, but affecting.

Canada's Robert Lepage is best known for his work in theatre. With *No*, his follow-up to *Le Confessionnal* and *The Polygraph*, it's still unclear why he decided to switch mediums. Set in 1970, in Japan and Quebec, this agreeable tale boiled down from a seven-hour play, juggles two narratives. In one, an actress performing Feydeau realises sexual attraction is a farce; in the other, her writer boyfriend discovers rev-

olution is, too. The search for identity, cultural and emotional, underpins everything and, though intelligently done, it all feels a bit schematic.

Another offering from Canada, *The Red Violin* (made by the same team behind *Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*), is a costume drama which reveals, in five interwoven parts, the biography of a perfect, but cursed, violin over a period of nearly 400 years. A winsome fairy-tale for adults, its cinematography is ravishing and the music exquisite. But it can't handle passion (there's a ludicrous segment with Jason Fleming and Greta Scacchi as fiery lovers) and Samuel L. Jackson, as a debonair violin expert, is simply wasted.

It's hard to reconcile Rose Troche's London Film Festival hit, *Bedrooms & Hallways*, with her 1994 debut, *Go Fish*. Where the first was witty, light and purely cinematic, this one - centred on a confused carpenter (Kevin McKidd), one of a group of bed-hopping, gender-bending thirtysomething living in London - looks made for TV. Watching *B&H* is a bit like sitting in a luke-warm bath, waiting for someone to turn the hot water back on. The longer you wait, the colder it gets.

*Orgazmo*, an early work by Trey Parker (creator of cult TV cartoon *South Park*), is about a Mormon who gets mixed up in the porn business. Parker's a comic genius. But trust me, it's a recent development.

COYS

All films are on release from tomorrow

**Bedrooms & Hallways**  
ReModel Your Love Life

Kevin McKidd Hugo Weaving James Purefoy Tom Hollander Christopher Fulford  
Julie Graham Con O'Neill Paul Higgins Jennifer Ehle Harriet Walter Simon Callow

"HYSTERICALLY FUNNY AND TRULY ORIGINAL... BRILLIANT"  
Lorian Haynes, New Woman

"FANTASTIC"  
Matthew Bingham, FHM

"AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF OF PURE JOY"  
Marianne Gray, Film Review

"FAST MOVING, HIP AND VERY FUNNY"  
David Stubbs, Uncut

Audience Award  
London Film Festival  
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AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY



# A girl who won't wear labels

**Pride and Prejudice** made Jennifer Ehle a household name. So why is she out of work? Because she's choosy. By **Demetrios Matheou**

**I**t's shocking, Jennifer Ehle, the nation's favourite Elizabeth Bennett, enters in blue jeans, a long leather jacket and a dyed-blond bob; casually modern, with a natural sexiness that Jane Austen's heroine would never get away with. Soon she's talking about bisexuality, infidelity and all kinds of saucy stuff. Die-hard fans of *Pride and Prejudice*, of which there were millions when it was first screened in 1995, will be up in arms.

Well, of course, they won't. But this is just the kind of stock introduction, steeped in stereotype, that might make even the amused, amusing and distinctly ego-free Ehle a little peeved. As she repeats in an ironic mantra throughout lunch, "labels, labels," the actor's worst nightmare.

As a youngster, travelling through America with her actress mother, Rosemary Harris, and writer dad, Ehle changed schools 18 times. "In every new class there would be these stock label-carriers," she recalls. "The clown, the brain, the very popular girl, the very popular boy, and the recluse. Each time, I would be cast in a different role, or not at all - I was never anywhere long enough to feel I'd had a label slapped on me. But I was fascinated by what it must be like to go to the same school, all the way through, and never get the chance to break out."

She now wonders if such a common childhood experience, had she experienced it, might have left her better prepared for the media pigeon-hole she has encountered as an actress: notably for her debut role - as the free-spirited, sexually voracious Calypso in Peter Hall's television drama *The Camomile Lawn* - and for *Pride and Prejudice*.

Bennett, after which people would say, 'so do you want to get back into a bonnet and corset?'. As if such a fantastic character was defined by her bonnet."

The fascination with her more popular roles and their associations (the real-life affair with her "Mr Darcy", Colin Firth, was bliss for the tabloids) have resulted in an understandable trepidation about interviews which she is trying to overcome. But she also suggests another reason for coyness. "If I think of the actors I really admire - Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep, Maggie Smith, Ed Harris, Robin Wright - they are people you don't read about very often. I know very little about them. I find, as an audience member, that if someone's not labelled, boxed, categorised, it's easier to suspend disbelief. I remember reading, years and years ago, an interview in which Michelle Pfeiffer said she looked like a duck. She's a very beautiful woman, but when I see her now I do see the duck! Which I quite resent."

*'I've been out of work for seven months. I spend all day in Starbucks reading and going mad'*

These observations are prompted not by actorly spleen, but by the label-busting ethos of Ehle's latest film, *Bedrooms & Hallways*. At first glance, the film is merely another on the current conveyor belt of British romantic comedies that include *Sliding Doors*, *Martha* - *Meet Frank*, *Daniel and Laurence* and *This Year's Love* (in which Ehle also stars). What sets it apart are the happy shifts of its characters' sexual preferences, as the safe haven of a men's group is undermined by a gay newcomer.

"One of the things that I loved about the script is its openness, the fact that it doesn't get bogged down in gender stereotypes," says Ehle. "It doesn't slap a label on the first choice that people make." However, she doesn't rush to agree with co-star Simon Callow's opinion that the film reflects a society warning to its innate bisexuality. "That's not my experience. I don't know that many bisexual people. Very few."

She recalls that American director Rose Troche "was completely unhung-up about what the film was about, as was everyone involved. It was only after we'd finished shooting and I was telling somebody about it and they looked rather shocked, that I thought, 'oh, right, what are people going to think of all this?'. I wondered whether people were quite ready to be this accepting of characters swapping their sexuality around, of straddling fences. I do think it's bold."

If the actress has "straddled" anything herself, it has been nationality: born in North Carolina to an English mother and American father, she attended a few English schools as well as American ones, changing accent each time she crossed the Atlantic, before the desire to act - "I've got some kind of chromosome glitch that makes me want to pretend to be somebody else; that's my drug" - prompted the decision to settle in London.

"I got into a four-year course at the North Carolina School of Arts, but only ever planned to be there for one year, to prepare for auditions at the London schools. Because I knew I wanted a classical training. I was only 17. I was a minx - so ambitious."

This ambition (which she suggests has "evaporated") led to her also leaving the Central School of Speech and Drama prematurely to star in *The Camomile Lawn*.

Despite her earlier comments, Ehle rightly asserts that neither Calypso nor Elizabeth Bennett "affected the type of roles I've played otherwise. I've been labelled sometimes, but never typecast."

Indeed, the 29-year-old's eclectic CV includes: a spell with the RSC; on television, the enigmatic, contemporary heroine of Alan Bleasdale's *Melissa*, and a prisoner of war in the Second World War saga *Paradise Road*; and on film Oscar Wilde's cheated wife Constance in *Wide*, and the deadlocked, caustic single-mum in *This Year's Love*. If there are common denominators to be found, they are technical: an economy of style quite devoid of



"Hollywood's not my Mecca. I don't want to be obsessed with chins"

Kalpeh Lathigra

histrionics; brilliant diction; and, to steal a word often used to describe Ehle's friend Cate Blanchett, a "luminous" screen presence which owes itself to more than merely standing before the camera.

All of which makes her current unemployment hard to believe. "I've been out of work for seven months. I spend all day in Starbucks reading and going mad," she admits. This may sound melodramatic, but clearly it has been tough (she becomes almost tearful when I mention Blanchett's success, though insists I should continue "talk about her, talk away"). Why? "I think I am choosy, but it's not because I'm choosy. There just aren't that many good

women's parts around. There are fewer heroines than heroes in the stories we tell."

But there are more in Britain than in America, she insists, "because of classical literature, because of Shakespeare". So she has no plans to return. "Hollywood has never been my Mecca. And I would rather live in London than L.A. I wouldn't want to put myself under the physical scrutiny. I never want to worry about getting old, which I think I would if I were there. I don't want to be obsessed with chins!"

Ehle has one more movie in the can. *The Taste of Sunshine*, directed by the estimable István Szabó (*Mephisto*, *Colonel Redl*) and co-starring Ralph Fiennes, tells

the story of a Hungarian-Jewish family over three generations and through the two world wars.

"I was in Budapest for two months and I think it was the happiest I've ever been," she reflects. "Because of the work. And because there's something liberating about being extracted from your life and being plunked in the middle of a strange city, breaking your tethers for a bit, being unreachable. Weeks in a hotel can be kind of Zen. You have your basics and that's all you have." And not a label in sight.

*'Bedrooms & Hallways' is released tomorrow*

## DOUBLE BILL

FRANÇOIS GIRARD, DIRECTOR OF 'THE RED VIOLIN', ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

**THE SHINING**  
(STANLEY KUBRICK, 1980)  
**THE TENANT**  
(ROMAN POLANSKI, 1976)

I WOULD have to test this double bill on myself before allowing anyone else to watch it, and see if I could cope; they each have an overwhelming psychological power. I might also have a psychiatrist wait for me outside the cinema - just in case the experience made me want to jump off a bridge. Only then would my friends be submitted to the experience. Both films deal with mental isolation. They each look at man's experience of suffering.

About one rather disturbed guy, *The Tenant* shows how this man can't cope with living in a new apartment, where he is convinced he can hear the previous tenant. The film is driven by this man's fears; it dives into his perturbed



Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*

mind and his physical displacement. Also dealing with isolation, *The Shining* is about an entire family who spend one winter living alone in a huge house in the middle of nowhere. It is a very graphic portrayal of the father's mental health, because of this environment, and total paranoia.

The most striking scene, which really makes you connect with the characters' madness, is when the father is frantically typing on his typewriter. He is actually writing the same word: over and over, for many days. It's a very efficient expression of a man caught in the grip of insanity. It is a mental state that is also shown in *The Tenant*, but this film evokes even more of the horror of insanity. In one particularly disturbing scene, the tenant has gone through a glass window and is covered in deep wounds. He is almost dead after throwing himself out of the Paris apartment. But he is just strong enough to climb the stairs again, dragging himself up the steps one by one, so that once more, he can jump and try to kill himself.

These are very depressing films, which

would justify having a psychiatrist on standby. I believe that when we are looking at these films we are watching a reflection of America's sickness.

I am very interested in the cumulative impact of the film medium, and this is something which started interesting me when I began to watch more than one film at one sitting. I believe that if you see five films together they coalesce as though they could be the same film. In other words, you can see more clearly the connections, almost as though the five films could be stitched together and make one big story. Ultimately, if you keep connecting films this way, you would end up with a pretty good picture of the universe. Remember: a film is never an isolated object, it is part of our lives.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

## VIDEOWATCH

**Primary Colours** (15). To rent from Monday *THE RELEASE* of Mike Nichols's satire on contemporary presidential campaigning ought to have been as scandalous an occasion as the publication of the original *roman à clef*. Bill Clinton's real-life pokes, of course, stole a march on the film's chief selling point, the thinly-disguised inspiration for Governor Jack Stanton, a libidinous, silver-tongued presidential candidate. You can't blame Zippergate, however, for the film's disappointingly toothless attack on presidential politicking.

Travolta's indulgent turn as Stanton takes its cue from Elaine May's screenplay, which reduces an apparently irresistible political figure to a handshake, a grin and a roving eye. The caricatured portrayal of Stanton is quite at odds with the rest of a curiously tentative film. Emma Thompson turns in a superior performance as Stanton's put-upon wife, but

Nichols mistakenly focuses on a mild-mannered campaign manager as a narrative device. Who cares about his ethical tribulations when the pathologizing of the US President, his character and his rocky marriage has become a global sport?

**Marius et Jeannette** (15). £15.99. Pointedly set in L'Estaque, a run-down area of Marseilles, Robert Guediguian's delightful feature debut at first looks as if it's going to use its post-industrial setting merely as a gritty backdrop to the eponymous couple's relationship.

But the latter is just a single thread in the tapestry of the neighbourhood, a working-class community which bickers, romances and dozes the day away.

Lyrical directorial touches and a wry script ensure that the universal themes of class alienation and redundancy are subtly muted. It's the humanity, not the political context, that charms you.

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AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW



Witty, wilful, wild... Next to the screen's scarlet women, blondes are merely bland. By Nina Caplan

# If only Marilyn had been a redhead



When Julianne Moore slides on to our screens next week as the designing Mrs Cheveley in Oliver Parker's adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, the English accent may jar but the strawberry tresses will not. Unusual, disturbing, dangerous: these are the signals that the redhead gives out and Laura Cheveley, who plans to divulge a secret that will destroy the marriage of Sir Robert Chiltern (Jeremy Northam) unless he helps her to make her fortune, is all three.

Wilde made his over-dressed adventuress - a woman who says of her "detestable" school days that her prizes came a little later on in life and were none of them for good conduct - intelligent, witty, malicious, independent and red-headed.

Redheads have always been difficult to classify

and, as with most facts, this one becomes bigger and more humpious in the cinema: there is a gap where assumptions about redheads should be.

Gentlemen prefer blondes, but marry brunettes; that probably says more about gentlemen than it does about women of any hair colour, but it is still a burden of expectation that a redhead need not carry. Yet she isn't ignored: films with titles like *The Redhead from Wyoming* (with Maureen O'Hara) or *The Strawberry Blonde* (with Rita Hayworth) are proof that in monochrome Hollywood, her hair colour was considered sufficiently interesting to lure in an audience, and in the Technicolor film industry she still gets a special deal. If the devil has all the best tunes then the hair colour associated with him could justly claim to get many of the best roles.

Unsurprisingly, red is the colour of danger and rebellion. Redheads are often stuhhorn, fey Celts or the Irish Wilde well knew. And these characteristics tend to be reflected in the on-screen redhead persona, from Katharine Hepburn's uptight but independent-minded aristocrat in *The Philadelphia Story* to Nicole Kidman's homicidal bitch in *To Die For*. Hepburn's feisty Philadelphia character, Tracy Lord, gets to weigh up the attractions of goddess status - "Be whatever you want," ex-husband CK Dexter Haven (Cary Grant) tells her, "You're my redhead" - and eventually come down in favour of mortality.

Marilyn Monroe should have been so lucky. But blondes only get to party until they drop from exhaustion without ever being accorded the privilege of choosing their own dancing shoes. Moira Shearer, in *The Red Shoes*, has both feet and head liberated by their scarlet apparel. Her choices aren't the happiest and her dancing

leads to disaster, but she is granted a rare degree of autonomy. Shearer's red shoes are the antithesis of Cinderella's glass slipper; they stand on the side of career as opposed to marriage. She is eventually punished for her presumption, of course, but that doesn't make her actions any less flagrantly radical.

It was rare for a female character to achieve such freedom without being marked out as hard, or cunning, or - the worst fate of all - unattractive. But red hair can provide a necessary extra dimension, warning cold arrogance or adding a much-needed dash of chilli to the overly sweet (redheads are allowed to be vulnerable without immediately being classified as needy and clingy). Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman* is a hard-edged hooker in a blond wig, her humanity - mawkish or otherwise, depending on whether you like sugary comedies - blazes out along with her red hair when the wig comes off.

In keeping with the reputation for individuality red hair is far harder to reproduce than blonde. Peroxide is devalued gold: Rita Hayworth's flame-coloured tresses were so popular that there was outrage when Orson Welles peroxided her for *The Lady from Shanghai*. Their real-life marriage was breaking up at the time, and his supposedly artistic justification was considered a cover for pure malice. There is a warped justice to the idea of a woman who allows her husband to dictate her appearance so completely, losing her status as a symbol of fiery independence. But what a punishment for a woman who had played the sexy, irresponsible Gilda (tagline: there NEVER was a woman like Gilda!) and had "Put the Blame on Mame" with such memorable abandon, to be degraded to mere blondeness!



Red alert: left, Julianne Moore in 'An Ideal Husband'. Clockwise from above: Rita Hayworth in 'Gilda'; Julia Roberts in 'Pretty Woman'; Nicole Kidman in 'To Die For'

In *An Ideal Husband*, Julianne Moore emanates control. Mrs Cheveley does her own preferring and makes a decided effort to do her own marrying, in sharp contrast to the woodenly perfect Lady Chiltern. Cate Blanchett, last seen as history's most wilful redhead, Elizabeth I, and earlier still charmingly, stubbornly eccentric as the carrot-topped eponymous heiress in *Oscar and Lucinda*, has re-

duced herself for this part to a sandy-haired straw in the London wind, dribbling Victorian values every time she opens her prim lips. Like a female Samson, Blanchett's change of hair colour has robbed her of power. There's no doubting Julianne Moore's redhead credentials: her part in Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*, naked from the waist down, has ensured that. She was also the

perfectly named Amber Waves in *Boogie Nights*, and the mistress of mayhem in *The Big Lebowski*; the only one to keep her head when all about her are losing theirs. Difficult to lose, a head that colour, and difficult to forget, too. When the ephemeral charm of Wilde's play or Parker's film has faded, the vision of that banner of dark-red hair, and of the force of personality that generally accompanies it, will remain.

## A vision of hell on earth: the director's fight

German auteur Fred Keleman went without food to complete his film, *Frost*. Then the producer stole it. It's not easy being a visionary. By Roger Clarke

ARTISTTURNED-film director Fred Keleman is as glacially reserved in person as his beautiful, bleak films would suggest. One would have thought he had little reason to be flaccid with the kind of praise he's seen getting lately. Fundis in his native country have rightly dubbed him the most spectacular force in German since Fassbinder. Werner Herzog has virtually anointed him as heir. And of his first feature film, *Fate*, Susan Sontag wrote "It is a 'suiocary, one-of-a-kind achievement' and went on to list the 34-year-old German as one of only three directors in the world capable of expanding cinema as an art form.

In fact, Keleman has every reason to be glum. He's currently a combatant in a war zone. Not many months after this ringing endorsement by America's most impressive *rande dame* (the NYC Museum of Modern Art has since acquired a print of *Fate* for its collection), he found himself in a situation which is probably the worst thing that can ever happen to a director-auteur.

After a catastrophic falling-out with producer Björn Koll during the filming of his second feature, *Frost*, Koll impounded the negative and denied Keleman all further access to it. Keleman had lost actual physical possession of his own film.

Koll's behaviour ever since has been somewhat shocking. Despite attempts by the Goethe Institute and MOMA to intervene, Koll has rebuffed all attempts to settle the matter amicably and seems to be conducting a personal vendetta against Keleman. A Koll-edited version of *Frost* has even been offered to the major film festivals, according to Keleman. And he has received only 10 per cent of his fee, admitting he was so broke during the filming, he went short of food ("I got very hungry," he says, clearly embarrassed to admit it). Not since Eisenstein had his most personal and most experimental film, *Que Viva Mexico!*, stolen by its American financier in 1932, has there been such a parallel. So where did it all go wrong?

I first met Fred Keleman last November, leaning against the wall in the crypt of St Martin-in-the-Fields, looking much like a big, trenchcoated ghost who had stumbled in on some revelries he didn't quite want to understand. There was something very isolated about him. It was a party in honour of Festen-director Thomas Vinterberg: Vinterberg was the toast of the London Film Festival and was lapping it up. Keleman - I was later to discover - summarily dismissed the Dognie philosophy as "a schoolboy joke, a game", and went so far as to say he had already made a Dognie film even before the playful Danish primitivist diktat: was first postulated (*Fate* out-Dognies Dognie: it is shot on hand-held camera, in only 12 long sequences over 80 minutes, without music, using only natural light and with no scripted dialogue).

The screening of Keleman's *Frost* in his own disintegrating "director's edit" (i.e. the print that has been physically chopped and spliced and edited) was actually the most sig-

nificant moment of the Film Festival: the film had already received the International Critics' Prize at the Rotterdam Festival and had acquired an almost legendary status by the time it reached London. It was a samizdat, fugitive film: every time Keleman showed it the print disintegrated a bit more and the edits grew further apart. Here was a film physically decaying before the audience's eyes, the celluloid slowly and distinctively rotting away. It was a *memento mori* to send a shudder down the spine of every film director in the world.

The innately pessimistic Keleman, however, expresses little surprise about the way things are: his films, anyway, are largely concerned with human cruelty, thwarted passion leading to abject humiliation, and the deadening melodrama of despair. *Fate* concerns a Russian husker in the Berlin subway falling into a murder; *Frost* concerns a mother and young son trudging across a wintry countryside and being preyed on by low-lives lead-

ing to a murder; his recently completed third feature, tentatively called *Nightfall*, portrays an unemployed man and wife brutalised by their "barbaric surroundings".

"I think our world is cruel," he tells me when we meet again just recently, the fate of *Frost* still bitterly unresolved. But he refuses to give up. "When I hope, I wake," he says. "When we stop hoping, we fall asleep and can be killed very easily." He has the crumpled but defiant air of a man who has survived every bone in his body being broken by his enemies: he wearily anticipates the inevitability of pain. He's shabbily dressed and is very shy indeed. His face is flat and uncannily white, his hair a little greasy in the way of the recluse. Serious-minded as ever, and as if to put everything in perspective, he suddenly remarks: "Cruelty is everywhere - just look at the war going on."

I am struck, I tell him, by how the blasted landscapes in *Frost* resemble those of Soviet war movies so strongly. The characters seem to be

moving across a zone where, you suspect, a war is going on. "We filmed on the border of Poland and there were still old tank-traps there," he confirms in his low, halting monotone. "For many years now I've felt there's a smell of war in Europe. I was filming *Fate* back in 1993 when the war in Chechnya broke out. As you can imagine, it affected my main actor, Valerij Fedorenko, an opera singer from Chechnya, very strongly. When he wades into the fountain and you see the faces of children in the water, it came from that."

Keleman's antennae are more than usually attuned to the political currents of Eastern Europe: his father is German-Russian, his mother Hungarian, and he spent much of his childhood in Budapest. "Growing up in Berlin, too, while the wall was still there, instilled a sense of unease in me," he says. His pitched battles with the school authorities from the age of 10 also fixed a rebellious streak to his nature and a hatred of patriarchal institutions

tellingly, his father abandoned his family when Keleman was four.

It seems he's no stranger to fights over edits. When defying his tutors at film school over the editing of his graduation film, they brought in Werner Herzog to tame him: unfortunately, Herzog backed Keleman against his teachers. *Plus ça change*. Keleman, so mild-mannered to meet, surely far too haunted and introspective to be a threat to anyone, is fierce and resolute in the defence of his vision. It's rather refreshing. He really is prepared to starve for his art, as he did with *Frost*. And fight for it.

Will the wrangle over *Frost* ever be resolved? The world deserves to see this extraordinary film. Nursing the heavy-hearted air of a war poet waiting for a war, Fred Keleman is a man to watch, a Dante for the millennium whose visions of hell on earth have a gravid and spectral authority few can match.

*Fate* opens tomorrow at the Lux Cinema, London

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"In many cases, suppliers are offering Y2K upgrades, frequently at a price and frequently at a very high price. There may be a case to say the user shouldn't pay for those upgrades because they were not supplied with a satisfactory system in the first place.

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**SWISS COTTAGE**  
WARRNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) @ Finchley Road Arlington Road 6.15pm, 8.50pm Blast from the Past 11am, 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 11.45am Mighty Joe 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 9.25pm La Vita è Bella 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm You've Got Me!! 9.50pm

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THEATRE  
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals.

— Seats at all prices — Seats at some prices — Returns only

Matinees — [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

**AMADEUS** David Suchet stars as Salieri. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-494 5372/cc 494 5372) BR/VC. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm. £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

**ANIMAL CRACKERS** Stage version of the Marx Brothers' classic. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) @ Picc Circus. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 2.30pm. £9.50-£30. 150 mins.

**ART** Tom Manton, Danny Webb, and Gary Olsen in this comedy about friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) @ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat, [7] 3pm, [7] 11pm. £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavis family musical based on Disney's version of the fairy-tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) @ Tox Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm. £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) @ Leic Sq/Tox Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm. £11.50-£32.50. 185 mins.

**BUDDY** Musical biog of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) @ Covent Garden. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 8.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, Sun 11pm. £10-£30. half price Fri. 160 mins.

**CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) @ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] 7.30pm. £10.50-£35. 165 mins.

**CHICAGO** Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) @ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7.30pm. £16-£36 (incl booking fee). 130 mins.

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company last forwards through 37 plays and 100 characters. Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) @ Picc Circus. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 11pm. £0-£25. 120 mins.

**COPENHAGEN** Drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) @ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm. £10-£30. 145 mins.

**DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN** Mark Little stars in this witty comedy about a cavewoman. Apollo Victoria Theatre, W1 (0171-494 5070) @ Charing X. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri & Sat 8pm & 8.45pm, £5-£25, concs available.

**DR. DOOLITTLE** Phillip Schofield talks to the animals. London Apollo Hammersmith, Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) @ Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, ends 28 Aug. £12.50-£32.50. 150 mins.







PETER  
CONCHIE

## TELEVISION REVIEW

IN *DESIGNER BABIES* (BBC1, 9.00), the perfect solution emerged for how to make your children do what they are told. Get to them while they are still doting in the womb.

The subject was genetically modified children—their predicted possibilities of choosing desirable genes for the next generation. Gentle mischief was made with some of the contributors. One scientist talked about how, with the full roll-call of human genes which the Human Genome Project aims at, science is beginning to explore what it really means to be human. The assertion was emphasized with a close-up that was so in-your-face that his features had begun to warp. From this distorted perspective he looked at Martin Scorsese, and you wouldn't, the subject seemed to read, trust the future of humanity to a chap who resembles the director of *Taxi Driver*.

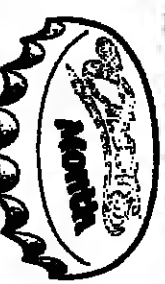
But there were further problems, too, as the scientist was clearly confounding description and understanding. Even if mission is accomplished, and all 100,000-odd human genes are printed down, that is not quite the same as knowing what it "means" to be human. Call me an old-fashioned Cartesian, but that, surely, is still a philosophical project. Further, what does science do with all that data—firstly, how does it process the vast pool of results and, secondly, how does it make sense of them?

The script was at best uneven, the faded visual imagery ranged from subtle to negligible. An opening scene of a baby sitting on a black-and-white DNA strip configured an opposite image of

a bar-code, but a later shot of how the new technology could create a social underclass was illuminated by a crying baby. It was unfortunate that the waiting infant was black. Unimpressive linking shots consisted of rows of fading dummies having made up, applied. The gene for neuritis had been identified, and we stood at one point. Round up and shoot those miserable genetic sons of bitches and it would be as if we were permanently on Prozac. Which would be good news up to a point, but the film slipped really past a sinister implication for the human condition, since the alienating, game controlling assertion was emphasized with a slide-effect for who we are and who we're not. From this perspective, the subject seemed to read, trust the future of humanity to a chap who resembles the director of *Taxi Driver*.

Robert Harris is nursing

## COMEDY IS PARAMOUNT

YOU WANT  
TO GO WHERE  
EVERYBODY  
KNOWS YOUR  
NAME.

8 specially selected episodes presented by Cliff the mailman, Saturdays and Sundays 5-9.30pm on the Paramount Comedy Channel

## BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (85040). **7.00 News** (1) (87776). **9.00 (Killy)** (5) (1) (872330). **9.45 Style Challenge** (1) (887760). **10.10 The Verne Show** (5) (1) (894663). **10.55 News: Regional News: Weather** (1) (872427). **11.00 Change That** (5) (1) (872427). **11.55 News: Regional News: Weather** (1) (894663). **12.00 Golf for a Song** (5) (1) (894663). **12.25 Wipeout** (1) (894663). **1.00 News: Weather** (1) (872427). **1.30 Regional News and Weather** (5) (1) (894663). **1.40 Neighbourhood** (5) (1) (894663). **2.05 Inroads** (1) (894663). **2.35 Through the Keyhole** (5) (1) (894663). **3.25 Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch!** (1) (894663). **3.45 Children's BBC: Chucklewood Critics** (1) (894663). **4.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks** (1) (894663). **4.30 Julie, Julie and Hazel Hyde** (1) (894663). **4.55 Newsround** (5) (1) (894663). **5.40 Morn'g** (5) (1) (894663). **5.55 Neighbourhood: Wedg's makes a new friend** (5) (1) (894663). **6.00 News: Weather** (1) (872427). **6.30 Regional News: And weather** (1) (87776). **7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson** (5) (1) (87776).

## BBC2

- 7.10 Children's BBC: The Silver Broom** (1) (894663). **7.35 Top Cat** (1) (894663). **7.55 The Bobs** (1) (894663). **8.20 Burnt** (1) (894663). **8.40 Blue Peter** (1) (894663). **8.55 Saturday Night Takeaway** (1) (894663). **9.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **9.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **10.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **10.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **10.55 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **11.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **11.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **11.55 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **12.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **12.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **1.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **1.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **1.55 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **2.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **2.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **2.55 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **3.00 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **3.30 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **3.55 The Ghost Chase** (1) (894663). **4.00 The Ghost 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